

CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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For Immediate Release

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Carteret County COVID-19 Carteret County Identifies First Case of COVID-19 Press Release #17

Beaufort, NC – The first case of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been confirmed in Carteret County. The individual who tested positive for COVID-19 recently returned from international travel and began showing symptoms after returning to North Carolina. This individual was tested for COVID-19 on Wednesday, March 18 and confirmation of a positive COVID-19 test result was received at the Carteret County Health Department on Friday, March 20 from the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health. This individual is in isolation at home at this time.

Carteret County Health Department's Communicable Disease staff is working at this time to conduct contact tracing to make sure everyone who came into close contact with this individual is quarantined. Close contact is anyone who was within six feet of the individual for 10 minutes or more. To protect individual privacy, no further information will be released.

"There is nothing to indicate this was a community-acquired transmission," stated Stephanie Cannon, Carteret County Health Director. "All indications are this was travel-related. We are following all state protocols for contact tracing."

According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, at this time there are no approved treatments and no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. However, there are known methods to reduce and slow the spread of infection. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, disinfecting surfaces, and covering coughs and sneezes. Community-based interventions can also slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes measures collectively known as "social distancing." Social distancing measures aim to reduce the frequency of contact and increase physical distance between persons, thereby reducing the risks of person-to-person transmission. Implementation of these measures can slow the spread of this disease.

For more information on COVID-19 and preventive measures you can take, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> or the NC Department of Health and Human Services website: <https://www.ncdhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>



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For more information on Carteret County-specific information, please call the Carteret County Citizens Inquiry Line at 252-726-7060.

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