

# CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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For Immediate Release

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## **Carteret County COVID-19 Carteret County Reports First Death Related to COVID-19 Press Release #28**

**Carteret County, NC** – The Carteret County Health Department reports the first COVID-19 associated death in Carteret County. The individual died on March 28, 2020 from complications associated with the virus. The patient was a Virginia resident, in their 80's, and had several underlying medical conditions. The confirmed case and death of this person will be reported in the county in which they resided in Virginia and will not be reflected on the NC Department of Health Human Services case count for confirmed cases and deaths in Carteret County. To protect the family's privacy, no further information about the patient will be released.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and loved ones," stated Health Director, Stephanie Cannon. "For high risk individuals, this virus can cause serious illness and in some cases be fatal. It's time for everyone to stay at home and slow the spread of this virus in our community." Ms. Cannon added.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people who get COVID-19 will recover without needing medical care. For that reason, people who think they have COVID-19 showing mild symptoms such as fever and cough without shortness of breath or difficulty breathing are encouraged to isolate themselves at home, separate themselves from others within the household as much as possible, and call their medical provider for advice.

It is extremely important for people at higher risk of getting sick with COVID-19 to call their medical provider if they develop symptoms of fever or cough. High-risk individuals include:

- Are 65 years or older
- Live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Have compromised immune systems
- Severe obesity-body mass index of 40 or higher
- Other underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure or liver disease.
- People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk for severe viral illnesses.

For individuals with more serious or worsening symptoms, please call your medical provider or 911 immediately. Those symptoms include worsening shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chest pain or pressure, confusion, or blue lips.

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit [ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](https://ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus) or call the Citizens Inquiry Hotline at 252-728-7060.

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