

# CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Cindy P. Holman**  
Consolidated Human Services Director  
cindy.holman@carteretcountync.gov



**Clinton W. Lewis**  
DSS Director  
Consolidated Human Services Deputy Director  
clint.lewis@carteretcountync.gov

**Stephanie M. Cannon, MPA**  
Health Director  
Consolidated Human Services Deputy Director  
stephanie.cannon@carteretcountync.gov

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Jaime Long  
252.728.8454  
[jaime.long@carteretcountync.gov](mailto:jaime.long@carteretcountync.gov)

## **Carteret County COVID-19 Governor Cooper's Executive Order 118- Outdoor Restaurant Seating Press Release #13**

**Beaufort, NC** – On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the North Carolina Governor, Roy Cooper, issued Executive Order No. 118, limiting operations of restaurants and bars and broadening unemployment insurance benefits in response to COVID-19. The Governor declared that restaurants are restricted to carry-out, drive-through, delivery, and onsite consumption in outdoor seating areas, subject to mass gathering restrictions to create an environment where staff and patrons maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet from other people) whenever possible. The Order also gave Local Law Enforcement Officers the authority to enforce compliance.

The Carteret County Environmental Health Director Jesse Dail stated, "After reviewing guidance received from the Environmental Health Section of NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, it is our understanding that restaurants are not permitted to serve patrons indoors or in outdoor seating areas. If a restaurant has outdoor seating, onsite consumption in the outdoor seating area is only permitted for food that has been ordered as a carry out and is subject to mass gathering restrictions and social distancing guidelines."

The health and safety of our citizens is of utmost importance in our County. It is our shared responsibility to use good judgement and protect each other during this outbreak. We encourage citizens to be vigilant in practicing social distancing and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

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Department of Social Services — 210 Craven Street • PO Box 779 • Beaufort, NC 28516  
Tel (252) 728-3181 / Main Fax (252) 648-7462 / Legal Unit Fax (252) 648-7463

Public Health Department — 3820-A Bridges Street • Morehead City, NC 28557  
Main Office — Tel (252) 728-8550 / Fax (252) 222-7739  
Environmental Health — Tel (252) 728-8499 / Fax (252) 222-7753  
Animal Control — Tel (252) 728-8585 / Fax (252) 222-5823

