



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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Shelley Carraway
DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release: April 13, 2020

To: Jackson County Community & Stakeholders

From: Jackson County Department of Public Health

Re: Two Full-Time Jackson County Residents Test Positive for COVID-19

The Jackson County Department of Public Health (JCDPH) received notice that two full-time Jackson County residents have tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The residents have been in isolation and JCDPH will continue to monitor them throughout the duration of their isolation time. To comply with State and Federal laws and to protect the privacy of the residents, no further information will be released.

JCDPH will continue necessary contact tracing on these residents to identify close contacts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a close contact as being within approximately six (6) feet of a person with COVID-19 infection for 10 minutes or longer. Based on information provided by the residents, staff will reach out to close contacts, assess their risk of exposure, and determine if they need to take any additional measures.

Jackson County as a community has been diligent in our prevention efforts, knowing that we could reach this point eventually. The identification of positive cases in full-time residents do not stop us from our proactive prevention efforts or our willingness to adapt to guidelines set by the State of North Carolina and the Federal Government. **However, this information stresses the point that everyone should be staying home as much as possible to reduce our chances of exposing ourselves or others to COVID-19.**

Because COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, individuals should take the same measures that healthcare providers recommend to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses, including washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, staying home if you are sick and covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow. If you become ill with symptoms of respiratory illness, you should isolate yourself and call your healthcare provider for further guidance.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like JCDPH, NCDHHS, and CDC. Visit JCDPH's website at <http://health.jacksonnc.org/covid19> for local updates **to include all future positive COVID-19 test results in both full- and part-time residents in Jackson County.**

For other COVID-19 questions, call the Jackson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 828-631-HELP. This number is staffed seven (7) days a week from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

All media inquiries should go to Jackson County's Acting Public Information Officer, Kelly Donaldson at jacksonpio@jacksonnc.org.

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