



Pamlico County Health Department

203 North Street

PO Box 306

Bayboro, NC 28515

Tel: (252) 745-5111 Fax: (252) 745-7684



Scott Lenhart, Health Director
Pamlico County Health Department
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2020

Pamlico County Health Department and NCDHHS Launch Testing and Contact Tracing Resources to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 in Pamlico County

Raleigh, N.C. -- Today, Pamlico County Health Department and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) are launching new initiatives to expand COVID-19 testing and contact tracing across the state and help Pamlico County families protect themselves and their neighbors. Testing and tracing are core public health measures and key components of North Carolina's strategy to responsibly ease restrictions, while continuing to slow the spread of the virus.

People in Pamlico County can now access new online tools to determine if they should consider being tested for COVID-19 and find a nearby testing place. The tool will also help individuals monitor their symptoms if they have tested positive for or been exposed to COVID-19. In addition, NCDHHS launched a new platform to integrate contact tracing efforts across the state. Pamlico County Health Department has been training on the software and is using it in its ongoing contact tracing work.

Pamlico County Health Director, Scott Lenhart, states, "Over the last three months, our staff have worked diligently with Pamlico County Emergency Management, and North Carolina Public Health Officials; as well as with our two neighboring health partners: the Pamlico Community Health Center and Pamlico County CCHC health agency, to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 Virus in our community.

To date, of the nearly 300 individuals that have been tested for COVID-19 in Pamlico County, only 11 people have tested positive for the virus. Currently, there are two (2) cases still active and under isolation, and there are nine (9) people who have recovered. No deaths have been reported for Pamlico County resulting from the COVID-19 virus.

To ensure swift and timely action towards reducing the spread of COVID-19, the Pamlico County Health Department has eight (8) members of its staff who have received training in the Contract Tracing process and the tools that will be utilized in those efforts. We also have many community volunteers who have received this training as well and are on stand-by and available, if needed. With the help that we are receiving from all of our partners, the new Contact Tracing Tools, and from NCPH, Pamlico County is currently meeting demands on all fronts."

Pamlico County Health Department programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal of retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Pamlico County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

“These new COVID-19 testing tools and resources help North Carolinians have the support and information they need to take care of themselves and their loved ones,” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D. “When more people get tested, and we all work alongside the COVID-19 Community Team to do our part with contact tracing, we can protect our loved ones and slow the spread of the virus.”

New Online Tools to Increase Access to Testing

Having more than tripled the amount of testing completed just a month ago, North Carolina continues to ramp up testing. The new online tools are intended to help people know if they may need a test, how to get a test, and monitor their own symptoms if advised to do so by a contact tracer. These tools include:

- **Check My Symptoms** (www.ncdhhs.gov/symptoms), a public website that allows people to enter their symptoms to determine if they should consider getting tested for COVID-19. If a test is recommended, they will receive a link to a list of nearby testing sites via email or text.
- **Find My Testing Place** (www.ncdhhs.gov/TestingPlace), a public website that allows people to enter their county or ZIP code and access a list of nearby testing site locations online.
- **COVID-19 Community Team Outreach (CTO) Tool**, a password-protected online software that helps people track their own symptoms if they have been advised to do so by the COVID-19 Community Team. It is also a platform that helps streamline and integrate contact tracing work across the state.

Expanded Contact Tracing Through the COVID-19 Community Team

Through contact tracing, the COVID-19 Community Team reaches out to people who may have recently come into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 and connects them with the information and support needed to protect themselves and their loved ones.

It is important that people answer the call when the Community Team reaches out. Individuals being contacted will get an initial text from the number 45394 or email from NC-ARIAS-NoReply@dhhs.nc.gov with follow-up phone calls from Pamlico County Health Department at (252) 745-5111 or from NC OUTREACH (844-628-7223). **The Community Team will never ask for anyone’s Social Security Number, bank or credit card numbers, or any other financial information at any time. Any information shared during the call is a private health record and is strictly confidential.**

Continued Prevention Measures

All North Carolinians should continue practicing their 3 Ws when they leave home: Wear. Wait. Wash.

- **Wear** a cloth face covering if you will be with other people.
- **Wait** 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- **Wash** your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

“If we all do our part, we can protect our family and neighbors and get back to enjoying things like family gatherings, pastimes, and community events outside of our homes,” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D. “By working together, we will slow the spread of this virus.”

Pamlico County Health Department programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal of retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Pamlico County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For more information on testing and contact tracing, please visit: <https://www.pamlicocounty.org/coronavirus-info.aspx> or <https://www.facebook.com/pamlicocountyhealthdepartment/>

NCDHHS has provided the Frequently Asked Questions about:

- Testing (covid19.ncdhhs.gov/Testing) and
- Contact Tracing (covid19.ncdhhs.gov/ContactTracing)

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit: nc.gov/covid19.

For more data and information about North Carolina's testing strategy, visit the COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>.