

Board of Commissioners

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COUNTY OF PAMLICO

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For Immediate Release
May 20, 2020

Upon receiving official notice of a positive Coronavirus test result, Pamlico County Health Department (Health Department) in coordination with and through Pamlico County Emergency Management issues a media release to inform the public of the occurrence. An official notice is one issued to Pamlico County Health Department by the North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS) or a licensed health provider. There may be a time difference, sometimes days, between when the result is reported to an individual patient by their respective health provider and when this result is reported to the Health Department. The Health Department cannot issue media releases when cases are individually reported through social media and other means, only when that case is reported to the Health Department by an official notice.

Pamlico County issues media releases concerning known positive Coronavirus test results through the Pamlico County Emergency Management Facebook Page, Pamlico County Health Department Facebook Page, Pamlico County Web Page, and via emails on official letterhead directly to news agencies. At minimum, each media release contains the following information: date the test was reported to Pamlico County; date the patient was tested; age of the patient; total number of positive tests to date for the County; total patients recovered; and recommended protective measures. Due to the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (**HIPAA**), a media release cannot contain a patient's personal health information such as name, address or other information that will allow someone to identify that patient.

Pamlico County Health Department is working with State and local health providers so that test results are reported to the Health Department in a timely manner, thus ensuring that this information is efficiently relayed to the public. Pamlico County residents that test positive for Coronavirus should contact the Pamlico Health Department at (252) 745-5111. Questions concerning media releases should be directed to Pamlico County Emergency Management at (252) 745-4131 or email at emc@pamlicocounty.org. Official media requests will be answered and reviewed from requestors with press credentials only.

Pamlico County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider