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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fifth and Sixth COVID-19 Cases Confirmed in Craven County

Craven County, NC – The fifth and sixth cases of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) have been confirmed in Craven County. Both cases are adults who were tested at private physician offices in Craven County. The tests were sent to LabCorp for testing. These confirmed cases were reported to the Craven County Health Department on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 by state health officials. The individuals from each case have been in isolation since symptom onset and are recovering at home. Due to patient confidentiality, no additional details about these individuals or where they were tested can be provided. Craven County public health officials have been in contact with both individuals since notified of the positive test results this morning. These cases are not related, nor are they related to any previous positive cases or to travel. These new cases constitute Craven County's first confirmed cases of community transmission. Community transmission means there is spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown.

Craven County Health Department's Communicable Disease staff is working to conduct contact tracing to make sure everyone who came into close contact with these individuals is quarantined. Close contact is anyone who was within six feet of the individual for 10 minutes or more. While Craven County has had six confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, four of those individuals have recovered, are doing well, and are out of isolation. Only one positive case resulted from the 25 tests completed at the drive-up test site at the Craven County Health Department held March 20, 23 and 25, 2020.

"The fact that we have confirmed community transmission does not change what we should be doing. It does reinforce the need to keep up the social distancing measures, hand washing and six feet of separation when we are out doing essential functions," stated Scott Harrelson, Craven County Health Director.

Residents who feel they are symptomatic and in need of testing need to call ahead to their primary care physician to receive instructions for how to proceed. Anyone who is symptomatic should not just present at a medical provider's office without calling ahead first.

Craven County Government COVID-19 updates will appear on the Craven County website at www.cravencountync.gov, on the Craven County Facebook page [@cravencounty](https://www.facebook.com/cravencounty) and the Craven County Twitter account [@cravencountync](https://twitter.com/cravencountync). Residents are also encouraged to register to receive notifications via the Craven County website and to register to receive emergency notifications via text, email and phone calls through the CodeRed Emergency Notification System.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html> and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health website at <https://ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus>.

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