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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Three New COVID-19 Cases Confirmed in Craven County

Craven County, NC – Three new cases of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) have been confirmed in Craven County residents. This brings the total positive case count to 10. The new individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 are adults. Two of the individuals were tested at Carolina East Medical Center for COVID-19 on March 31, 2020. The third individual was tested at Carolina East Medical Center for COVID-19 on March 30, 2020. All tests were sent to the North Carolina State Lab of Public Health. These confirmed cases were reported to the Craven County Health Department on Thursday, April 2, 2020 by state health officials and Carolina East Medical Center. Craven County public health officials have been in contact with each individual since notified of the positive test results. All three individuals are currently hospitalized. Two of the cases are a result of direct contact with a previously confirmed positive case. Craven County Health Department Communicable Disease staff has yet to determine where the third individual contracted COVID-19.

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 are quarantined. Close contact is anyone who was within six feet of the individual for 10 minutes or more.

While Craven County has had 10 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, four of those individuals have recovered, are doing well, and are out of isolation. Of the 10 cases, five have been related to out of state travel, two are from community transmission, two are a direct contact with a previously confirmed positive, and one is unknown at this time.

Residents who feel they are symptomatic should stay home and self-isolate. Most people who get COVID-19 will recover without needing medical care. New guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that you stay home if you have mild symptoms such as fever and cough without shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. Anyone who is symptomatic should not just present at a medical provider's office without calling ahead first. There are other upper respiratory illnesses present locally, the seasonal flu and it is allergy season which can also produce similar symptoms to COVID-19.

Craven County Health Director Scott Harrelson stated, "We all need to take this seriously but we do not need to live in fear. Remember 80% of the people who get COVID-19 will experience mild symptoms. Our health department team will continue to perform contact tracing to make sure close contacts of infected individuals are going into quarantine for 14 days. This will not totally stop the spread of the virus but it will slow the spread of the virus down. Social distancing measures are also helping to slow the spread. We will see an increase in the number of cases through the weeks to

come and it may not seem like we are slowing the spread but rest assured, your efforts are helping the situation greatly and know that we would experience many more cases if we were not taking these precautions.”

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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