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Craven County



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release 15: April 9, 2020

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First COVID-19 Related Death Confirmed in Craven County Resident

Craven County, NC – A Craven County resident died from complications related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on April 9, 2020 at CarolinaEast Medical Center. The individual presented to the hospital on April 2, 2020 and was tested for COVID-19 on the same day. The patient was confirmed positive for COVID-19 on April 4, 2020. The death was reported to the Craven County Health Department on April 9, 2020. To protect the family's privacy, no further information about the individual will be released.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of this individual. Despite our best efforts this virus has a tendency to be much harder on the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. Please listen to the advice of the infectious disease experts in order to reduce the infection rate of this virus. If we work together to reduce the spread of infection it will reduce the number of deaths," stated Scott Harrelson, Craven County Health Director.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people who get COVID-19 will recover without needing medical care. Stay home if have mild symptoms – such as fever cough without shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. You can call your doctor to see if you need medical care.

Some people are at higher risk of getting very sick with COVID-19. People at higher risk should call their doctor if they develop symptoms of fever or cough. You are at higher risk if you:

- Are 65 years or older
- Live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Have a high-risk condition that includes:
 - Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - Heart disease with complications
 - Compromised immune system
 - Severe obesity – body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher
 - Other underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure or liver disease

People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk for severe viral illness.

If you are sick with COVID-19 or believe you might have it, you should self-isolate. This means you should stay home and separate yourself from other people in the home as much as possible.

You can stop isolating yourself when you can answer “Yes” to all three questions:

1. Has it been at least 7 days since you first had symptoms?
2. Have you been without fever for three days (72 hours) without any medicine for fever?
3. Are your other symptoms improved?

Call your doctor if your symptoms get worse or you have concerns about your health.

Craven County citizens are encouraged to use reputable sources of information to learn more about coronavirus. Reputable sources of information include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NC Division of Public Health websites and the NC Division of Public Health’s Coronavirus call line 1-866-462-3821.

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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