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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fourth COVID-19 Related Death Confirmed in Craven County Resident

Craven County, NC – A fourth Craven County resident died from complications related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on April 21, 2020 at CarolinaEast Medical Center. The individual was tested at the hospital for COVID-19 on April 12, 2020. The patient was confirmed positive for COVID-19 on April 14, 2020. The death was reported to the Craven County Health Department on April 21, 2020. To protect the family's privacy, no further information about the individual will be released.

"It saddens us to hear of another death here in Craven County. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families. The four people who succumbed to COVID-19 were all in the high risk category outlined by the CDC. If you happen to be in the high risk category please take the necessary precautions. The Craven County Health Department will continue to work with our partners to ensure personal protective equipment gets to the places it needs to be in our community and that the proper protocols are being implemented in long term care facilities like nursing homes to protect those high risk populations. We also continue to perform contact tracing to isolate and quarantine positive cases and their close contacts to help prevent the spread of the virus," 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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