



ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
Partners in Public Health

Memorandum

To: County Emergency Response Partners

From: R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA

Date: April 2, 2020

RE: Handling of Positive Lab Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

Pasquotank

While the 2019 Coronavirus Pandemic presents a unique challenge to us all, please know that ARHS is dedicated to protecting the health of our eight-county region and our first responder community. We value the health and well-being of all and also aim to protect patient rights in the midst of this pandemic.

Perquimans

Camden

As more patients are identified during this response, the coordination of our agencies is vital. Please know I understand and join you in your concern of your responders, and through this response it is important that we balance the necessary level of protection of our response community while also adhering to both federal and state law regarding HIPAA and communicable disease patient privacy. Therefore, under my authority to administer isolation and quarantine orders, please know we will be adding the following to the isolation order for positive lab confirmed cases:

Chowan

Currituck

Bertie

Gates

Hertford

If at any time during this isolation order, you or a household member seeks assistance from emergency personnel, you shall notify authorities that someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19. This shall not only apply to situations at your residence, but also in other situations, such as vehicular accidents or other situations in which you are requesting assistance from first responders. This information shall be provided as soon as possible in each situation.

With this virus quickly gaining ground throughout our community, it is important for everyone to remain vigilant, adhering to universal precautions, social distancing requirements, personal hygiene, and sanitation practices. With that being said, we do understand the need to prioritize PPE usage, therefore, this guidance, along with the 911 screening mechanisms currently in place will allow first responders the time necessary to take those precautions.

This situation presents uncharted territory as we aim to prevent the spread of infection throughout our communities by taking a proactive public health approach through non-pharmaceutical interventions and community education. We cannot succeed in this effort without the cooperation and coordination of our county, healthcare system, and first responder community. I truly value your partnership and thank you for your role in this response as we protect the health of our community!



R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, Health Director

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