



**ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
Partners in Public Health

**711 Roanoke Ave. Elizabeth City, NC 27909**

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES UPDATE ON  
REGIONAL CASE COUNTS**

Elizabeth City, NC - Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is reporting case numbers as of 12 p.m. Friday, April 24, 2020. Lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases across the Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) region include:

Pasquotank County – 34 lab confirmed cases – 19 active, 14 recovered, and 1 death

Perquimans County – 10 lab confirmed cases – 4 active and 6 recovered

Camden County – 0 cases

Chowan County – 6 lab confirmed cases - 3 active and 3 recovered

Currituck County – 2 lab confirmed cases - 0 active and 2 recovered

Bertie County – 34 lab confirmed cases - 16 active, 17 recovered, and 1 death

Gates County – 6 lab confirmed cases - 2 active and 4 recovered

Hertford County – 23 lab confirmed cases - 19 active, 3 recovered, and 1 death

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ARHS confirms an increase in lab-confirmed case counts due to an outbreak at Rivers Correctional Institution in Hertford County. There are currently nine inmates and 10 staff with positive test results. ARHS communicable disease staff and NC DHHS have been proactively working with the correctional facility. Local and state guidance has been provided in order to manage the situation and mobilize resources and actions to limit additional spread of the virus at the facility. Individuals are isolated and their symptoms are being monitored. Additional testing will be provided as needed.

“ARHS has a total of 117 lab-confirmed positive cases across the region but we are very encouraged with the number of recovered cases we are reporting. ARHS is continuing to provide contact tracing of positive test results and coupled with containment and mitigation strategies we expect to continue to reduce the spread of the virus in the region,” states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, Health Director.

On Thursday, April 23, 2020 Governor Cooper extended the Stay at Home order through May 8. The orders extending closure of restaurants for dine-in service and bars and closure of other close-contact businesses are also extended through May 8. Governor Cooper has laid out a three phase plan to slowly re-open North Carolina to ensure the health and safety of citizens. More information about the Governor’s plan can be found here: <https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-extends-stay-home-order-through-may-8-plans-three-phase-lifting-restrictions-based>

Public health interventions are and will continue to be an important tool to reduce transmission and prevent the spread of COVID-19. ARHS is continuing to ask our community citizens to be vigilant in practicing preventive and safety measures that will help prevent the spread of the virus and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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Precautions include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Practice social distancing; stay at least six feet away from others, avoid unnecessary travel, avoid handshakes, hugs and other close contact.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public when social distancing measures are hard to maintain

For more information about COVID-19 visit these sites:

Albemarle Regional Health Services - <http://www.arhs-nc.org/> or call 252-338-WELL

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

*For more information, please contact Amy Underhill, ARHS Public Information Officer at 252-338-4448*

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*Albemarle Regional Health Services is dedicated to disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy environment to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability through quality service, education, and advocacy.*

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