



## COVID-19 Response

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2020

Rowan County is currently at full staff and all essential governmental services continue to be provided without interruption.

Since early February 2020, the Health Department and Emergency Management have been monitoring the situation, gathering information, and meeting regularly to ensure preparedness. Rowan County is operating in a Unified Command structure involving the Health Department Director and Emergency Services Chief. As of the time of this release there are no positive cases of COVID-19 in Rowan County.

The Health Department is the lead agency for Rowan County. Recently Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office and Health Department completed a full-scale preparedness exercise. "The County is prepared to manage the current situation and future developments," stated Charles Drake with the Rowan County Health Department.

Health Department and Emergency Services are conducting the following activities:

- Daily planning and coordination sessions for current and expected conditions
- Participating in weekly communications with NC Division of Public Health and CDC
- Maintaining strong coordination with healthcare partners, Rowan-Salisbury Schools, Sheriff's Office and the Chamber of Commerce
- Distributing information in a timely and accurate manner through the County website, stakeholder conference calls, and various media platforms. Specifically, Emergency Management and the Health Department are conducting weekly telephone conferences with healthcare partners (hospitals, licensed healthcare facilities, and healthcare providers). In addition, each week we will be conducting telephone conference calls with community leaders.

Rowan County Health Department is strongly urging the community to follow these recommendations:

- Cancel or modify gatherings of 100 or more people excluding schools
- To prevent exposing others, call ahead and give a history before going to your healthcare provider, urgent care, or emergency room
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time
- Practice social distancing - reduce the frequency of contact and increase physical distance between persons

Rowan County Sheriff's Office, Health Department, Emergency Management and Administration met this afternoon and the County will be making the following changes effective immediately through April 14, 2020. This will be reviewed again on April 1, 2020:

- Non-essential meetings for citizens will not be held in County buildings, with the exception of the Board of Commissioners Meetings. This includes, but is not limited to, gatherings / events at the West End Plaza Event Center, Library and Parks.
- All non-essential travel for County employees outside of the County with the exception of law enforcement, emergency medical services and Rowan Transit will be restricted.

Helpful websites and resources:

- [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus)
- [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- <https://www.rowancountync.gov/256/Health-Department>
- NC DHHS COVID-19 information line at 866-462-3821. Press 1 for English or to ask for a language interpreter. Spanish speakers should press 2. To submit questions online, go to [www.ncpoisoncontrol.org](http://www.ncpoisoncontrol.org) and select "Chat."

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For additional media questions contact:

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