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## Press Release

## Macon County Reports Five (5) Additional Deaths Related to COVID-19

Macon County Public Health received notification that five (5) Macon County residents, (one between 25-49 years old, two between 50-64 years old, one between 65-74 years old and one over 75 years old), who were diagnosed with COVID-19 have passed away. To protect the families' privacy, no additional information will be released about these individuals. These deaths bring Macon County to fifty-four (54) deaths related to COVID-19.

"Wishing these families peace and comfort as they mourn the loss of their loved ones," said Health Director, Kathy McGaha. McGaha continued, "Macon County residents can help protect themselves and others in our community by receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Macon County Public Health has appointments available for the lifesaving vaccine for everyone who is 12 years old and older. The more individuals who get this vaccine, the more likely that we will stop seeing COVID-19 deaths."

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19; however, anyone of any age can become infected with this illness. Therefore, we ask that community members **strictly follow** the governor's recommendations and continue to practice **social distancing**, as well as safe hygiene measures such as hand washing and frequently cleaning touched objects and surfaces. Everyone who is eligible is encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, a safe and effective prevention tool.

If you believe that you may have COVID-19, please call the Health Department at 828-349-2081 to schedule an appointment for a test. To register and schedule an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, please call 828-349-2081.

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