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Press Release

Macon County Reports First Death Related to COVID-19

A Macon County resident diagnosed with COVID-19 has died. The person was over the age of 65 and had underlying medical conditions. To protect the families' privacy, no further information about this patient will be released.

"Our deepest sympathies are with the family and loved ones at this time. We want to reiterate the importance of citizens staying home and practicing social distancing until further direction from our government and health leadership", stated Carmine Rocco, Macon County Interim Health Director.

Mr. Rocco continued, "Our message to those who are full-time residents, part-time residents, or visiting Macon County: Stay at home. Stay safe. Practice social distancing. Quarantine if you have travelled. Limit your trips outside of your home to necessities."

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like Macon County Public Health, CDC, and NCDHHS. For more information, please visit the CDC's website at <u>www.cdc.gov/coronavirus</u> and NCDHHS' website at <u>www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus</u>, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina. Macon County Public Health regularly updates our Facebook page with accurate and current information regarding COVID-19; we encourage the public to check our Facebook page, <u>www.facebook.com/MaconPublicHealth</u> for up-to-date information.

Symptoms for COVID-19 are fever, cough, and other lower respiratory illness (shortness of breath). If you believe that you may have COVID-19, please call the Health Department at 828-349-2517. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm, until further notice.

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