



# Chowan County & The Town of Edenton UPDATE Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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APRIL 9, 2020  
BULLETIN #15 – PRESS RELEASE



# County And Town Updates Coronavirus (COVID- 19) UPDATE

April 9, 2020 Bulletin #15



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## Updated info

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- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lab Confirmed Positive for Chowan County**

Chowan County was notified by ARHS today of a second lab confirmed positive case in Chowan County. The individual has not been in Chowan County since early March however, DHHS County Case Counts are based upon residency. See the attached press release from ARHS

As noted in a previous press release we know that there are individuals who are being diagnosed by private providers as “Presumptive Positive” and those diagnoses are not being reported by all private providers to NCDHHS databases.



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## Updated info

- Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is encouraging the community to wear cloth face masks to help slow the spread of COVID-19 especially in situations where social distancing measures are hard to maintain. The new guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) emphasizes the use of cloth face masks, not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which should be reserved for healthcare workers and medical first responders.
- Please see the image to the right  for tips on How to Use a Cloth Face Mask to Slow the spread of COVID-19.

### HOW TO USE A CLOTH FACE MASK TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

#### Cloth Face coverings should:

- ✓ Fit snugly against the side of the face.
- ✓ Secure with ties or ear loops and include multiple layers of fabric.
- ✓ Machine wash after frequent use.
- ✓ Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing the cloth mask.
- ✓ Wash hands immediately after removing the cloth face mask.

For tips on making a cloth face mask visit:  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)





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- **Message from Chowan County Tax Office**

Tax Office contractors are still out performing reappraisals at this time. However, we are vigilant in maintaining a safe 6ft distance with household member interactions as we will continue to knock on doors to ensure those who may be inside know we are there. Staff will have minimal contact with any items on the outside of the home as we utilize a laser measuring tape and will NOT enter the home for any reason. Our plan is to work in the most rural areas of the county first to assist in keeping the social distancing order. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa Radke, Tax Administrator at (252) 482-9837.

- **USDA Service Centers are Open for Business by Phone Appointment Only** *Program Delivery Continues while taking Safety Measures Related to Coronavirus*

USDA is open for business. Our team is continuing to provide the best customer service we can while also prioritizing the health of our employees, the health of our customers, and the health of our partners. USDA's Service Centers are open in North Carolina by phone appointment only. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into to the office, they will be working with our customers by phone, by email, and using other online tools whenever possible.

To learn more about USDA programs and the Department's response to the Coronavirus visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus) [[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com)] or [www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus](https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus) [[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com)]. To locate your local Service Center, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator) [[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com)]



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

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

NEWS RELEASE

April 9, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:  
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252-338-4448  
[aunderhill@arhs-nc.org](mailto:aunderhill@arhs-nc.org)

**ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES CONFIRMS SECOND POSITIVE  
COVID-19 CASE IN CHOWAN COUNTY**

Elizabeth City, NC – Albemarle Regional Health Services Health Director R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, has received notification of the second lab confirmed case of COVID-19 in Chowan County. The individual is in isolation outside of Chowan County and has not been in the county since early March. ARHS is following North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) guidelines on contact tracing of all individuals who may have had close contact with the case. Close contacts are defined as having direct contact with, or been within six feet for at least 10 minutes, of a case-patient while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment. Caregivers and household members of the case-patient are considered close contacts.

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ARHS will continue to closely monitor other cases in Chowan County but will no longer publish additional press releases for each individual case due to community transmission of COVID-19 throughout our communities.

As of 11 a.m. on April 9, 2020 Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is reporting lab confirmed positive cases of COVID -19 across the region. Case counts include: Pasquotank – 10, Perquimans – 2, Camden – 0, Chowan – 2, Currituck – 3, Bertie – 11, Gates – 4, Hertford – 4. In North Carolina, there are currently 3,651 cases of COVID-19 in 91 counties.

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. These 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.

To slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the number of people infected, communities should be following the guidance set by local, state, and federal officials to reduce frequency of contact and increase physical distance between persons, thereby reducing the risks of person-to-person transmission.

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Further information about COVID-19 can be found here:

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 or [aunderhill@arhs-nc.org](mailto:aunderhill@arhs-nc.org).*

*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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