



March 24th, 2020

County of Hertford
MEDIA RELEASE

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Elizabeth City, North Carolina – Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) Health Director R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, has received notification of a lab confirmed case of **COVID-19** in **Hertford County**. The individual is in isolation. ARHS is following North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services 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 (Source: Albemarle Regional Health Services).

In an abundance of caution and priority for Hertford County's staff, citizens, customers, clients and visitors; the County will enact the additional protective measures, effective Wednesday, March 25th, 2020 at 8:30 am. These protective measures comply with the Governor's Executive Orders as well as comport with the County's Core Values. The protective measures include the following: 1) continue the limitations implemented by the Department of Aging and Solid Waste. County staff are working to reestablish services at the Millennium Saint John Road Convenience Site by the end of the week, 2) limiting access (by the public) to the Department of Social Services, Building Inspections and Public Works (Utilities) to by appointment only, 3) the Sheriff's Office has suspended visitation hours at the Detention Center until further notice, 4) all other County offices will remain open to the public, 5) the limitations do not apply to State agencies occupying County provided office space, 6) enacting the Communicable Illness & Response Plan & Temporary Telecommuting Policy.

Citizens are encouraged to utilize online services and payment options (examples: water, wastewater and/or tax bills).

Community members are reminded to please enroll in Code Red, which is an emergency notification system.

Citizens are also encouraged to conduct business via telephone and/or email.

Please follow all recommendations from local, state and federal health officials regarding the spread of COVID-19. We encourage all citizens to stay informed by monitoring local, regional and national media outlets as well as Hertford County's website (www.hertfordcountync.gov).