



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guilford County Division of Public Health Confirms First Case of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) in Guilford County, North Carolina

Guilford County, NC - The Guilford County Division of Public Health (GCDPH) received confirmation of a positive COVID-19 case in Guilford County.

The case traveled to Orlando, Florida prior to onset of symptoms. Guidance has been provided by GCDPH to reduce exposure to the public.

The patient began experiencing symptoms upon their return from out of state travel. The patient presented to their primary care doctor for testing and went into immediate self-isolation. Guilford County Public Health is in continual communication with the patient who is doing well.

Dr. Iulia Vann, Guilford County Interim Public Health Director stated, "Since we have this first confirmed case, we anticipate additional positive testing. The County is heavily monitoring this case and will continue to address future cases as they arise. It continues to be important for the community to follow the preventive measures outlined by the CDC and contact their primary care doctors if they are experiencing symptoms."

In consultation with the CDC and NC DHHS, GCDPH is following up directly with all individuals who have had close contact with the case and are at risk of infection.

- The GCDPH will monitor close contacts and assure that proper evaluation and care is provided if they become ill.
- The CDC's guidance indicates that people who have casual contact with a case (for example, in the same grocery store or movie theater) are at minimal risk of developing infection.
- There is no evidence that person-to-person transmission has occurred in Guilford County.

The steps to preventing COVID-19 transmission are similar to the steps to preventing other respiratory illnesses like the flu. These steps include:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or a bent elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Stay at home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

No additional details about the case will be released at this time.

For more information, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS' website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

For questions, please call the COVID-19 phone line toll-free at 866-462-3821. This helpline is staffed by the [North Carolina Poison Control](http://www.ncpoisoncontrol.org) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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