FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2020

COLUMBUS COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE: SEVEN ADDITIONAL CASES OF COVID-19

Columbus County, NC – Columbus County has seven new cases of COVID-19 to report today. Our current total number of COVID-19 cases stands at 184. One of the new cases is connected with a congregate living facility in Columbus County, one case is connected to the COVID-19 outbreak at the nearby Smithfield Foods facility, one case is a healthcare worker, one case is connected to a known positive case, and the source of infection could not be found for the other three cases. Two of the new cases have been hospitalized. There have been eleven COVID-19 related deaths in Columbus County. We will be releasing an update on COVID-19 recoveries tomorrow (5/7/2020). For more information about cases of COVID-19 in congregate living facilities or the number of cases by zip code, please visit the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services website.

With the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths continuing to rise in Columbus County, we are asking the public to take the necessary measures to stop the transmission of COVID-19. The Columbus County Health Department would like to remind everyone of the recommended measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which are:

- Social distancing (e.g. avoiding crowds, self-quarantining, no mass gatherings, only going out in public when necessary)
- Wearing a mask or face covering when in public places
- Washing 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 when you cough or sneeze, throw it away, and then wash your hands
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose

Public Health continues to work with our health and safety partners in the community to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to provide daily updates. The Columbus County Health Department regularly updates our Facebook page with accurate and current information regarding COVID-19 and Columbus County. For more information regarding prevention, symptoms, reputable sources, and other important information please see our previous COVID-19 updates and press releases at Facebook.com/columbuscountyhealth. For information, you can also reach the Columbus County Health Department’s COVID-19 Call Center by calling 910-640-6615 ext. 7045 or 7046. The call center hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

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