FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2020

COLUMBUS COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE: 2 COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS & 9 NEW CASES OF COVID-19

Columbus County, NC – Columbus County is reporting two additional COVID-19 associated deaths. One of the individuals passed away on May 16 while hospitalized and the other individual passed away on May 17 at their place of residence. The individuals were two of the previously identified positive cases in Columbus County. To protect the families’ privacy, no further information about these individuals will be released. We offer our deepest condolences and sympathies to all of the individuals’ family and friends in this very difficult time.

Columbus County also has nine new cases of COVID-19 to report today. Our current total number of COVID-19 cases stands at 250. Two of the new cases are connected with a congregate living facility in Columbus County, two cases of the new cases are family members of a known positive case living in the same household, one case is a healthcare worker, two cases are still under investigation, and the source of infection is unknown for two cases. There have been 20 COVID-19 associated deaths in Columbus County. For more information about recoveries, please see our release from May 14. We will be releasing another update on COVID-19 recoveries later this week. 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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