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Legislative Updates

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 7:54 PM

To: Steve Johnston

March 11, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



CORONAVIRUS UPDATES



PEACE. Today, members of the Mecklenburg Delegation joined Governor Roy Cooper and other state public health officials at a press conference to address Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) questions.

On yesterday, the governor declared a State of Emergency in North Carolina due to Coronavirus concerns. Declaring a state of emergency will allow the state to allocate necessary resources, mobilize medical personnel and help contain the spread of the virus.

The Mecklenburg County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was activated at 1:00 p.m. on today to support Mecklenburg County Public Health and other health partners in planning for potential effects of COVID-19 in Mecklenburg County.

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a new virus first identified in Wuhan, China. As cases of COVID-19 continue to grow, the World Health Organization [WHO] and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] expect more confirmed cases globally and in the United States. There are currently **7 cases** in North Carolina, fortunately none here in Mecklenburg County.

The CDC has indicated that Americans should be anticipating and preparing for the possibility of widespread COVID-19 in the United States. Since late January, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and NC Emergency Management (NCEM) have been operating a team to coordinate efforts around the state's response. In early February, Governor Cooper formalized this effort with the creation of the COVID-19 Task Force.

NCDHHS and NCEM are working closely with local health departments, health care providers and others to quickly identify and respond to any potential isolated cases that might occur in the state and prepare North Carolinians to be ready in the event of more widespread, national COVID-19 transmission.

The following are common-sense measures all North Carolinians can take to prepare for potential widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the state:

Individuals, Families and Communities

NCDHHS recommends everyone continue taking precautions to protect themselves and others from the spread of respiratory illnesses, which includes COVID-19.

- 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 when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.

It is also good practice to start being more aware of the number of times a day your hands touch an object or hard surface and then touch your face without being washed. Limiting the exposure of your nose, mouth and eyes to unwashed hands can help to protect from the spread of all germs and illnesses.

Have a plan in case you need to miss work or other responsibilities due to personal illness or to care for a sick family member.

For pregnant women and children, review the information and guidance

available on the CDC website.

Businesses and Employers

- Practice good hand hygiene and encourage your employees and patrons to take common-sense precautions to protect themselves from the spread of respiratory illnesses.
- Review your policies and procedures for remote or teleworking where possible.
- Cross-train employees for key functions so that daily schedules can continue relatively uninterrupted by potential employee absences.
- Review absenteeism policies to make sure employees are not being encouraged to come to work if they are sick.
- If you have not already, establish a relationship with your local health department and communicate with them if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19.
- Look for more updates and guidance for businesses available on the CDC website.

No one group, ethnicity or population in the US is at a higher risk for acquiring COVID-19 infection than others. While some people may be worried or have concerns about COVID-19, it is important to not let fear and anxiety lead to social stigma towards friends, neighbors or members of the community. Treat all people with compassion and speak up if you hear others making statements that cause stigma against people in your community.

All North Carolinians can better prepare for COVID-19 by getting up-to-date information directly from reliable sources like NCDHHS and the CDC. The COVID-19 outbreak has been accompanied by a global flood of misinformation from unreliable sources. Be thoughtful about what you read or hear about the virus and make sure you are separating rumor from fact before you act.

Hospitals in North Carolina are preparing to respond should Coronavirus become an issue. Having a hospital at the ready to respond to outbreaks and disasters is essential. Hospitals and health systems maintain trained personnel, specialized equipment and supplies to prepare for any emergency, no matter how small or large.

As hospitals and health systems are responding to COVID-19, the North Carolina Healthcare Association has compiled a list of hospitals and health systems who are actively updating their website on information regarding the virus as well as policies and procedures in place. Since they are constantly changing, this list should be helpful to you and your family.

The links to each hospital and health system with an active page can be found [here](#). Please scroll to the bottom of the web page and click on the hospital/health system for the most up to date information from them on

COVID-19.

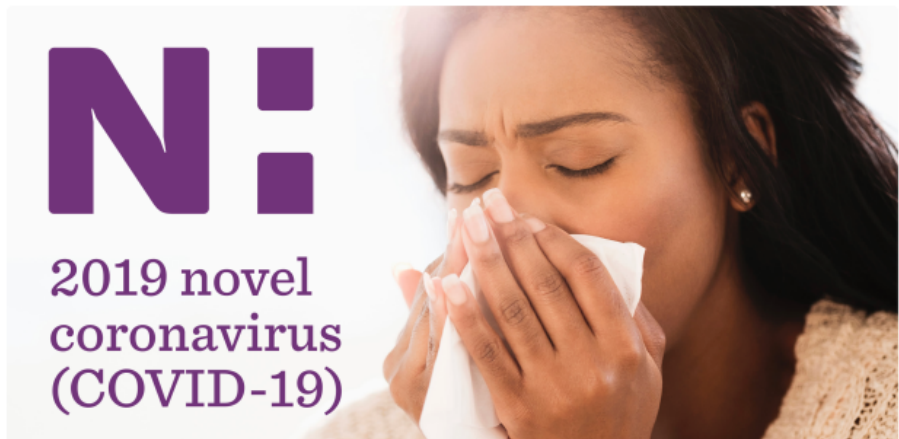
Current Situation as of 03.10.2020

Location	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Globally ¹	113,702	4,012
China ¹	80,924	3,140
Outside of China (109 counties) ¹	32,778	872
United States ²	647	25
North Carolina	7*	

*Presumptively positive as reported by NC Department of Health and Human Services

¹Data from World Health Organization

²Data from Centers for Disease Control



The facts

The 2019 novel coronavirus, initially identified in China, has spread to dozens of countries, including the United States. The disease that the virus causes is called COVID-19.

Do I have COVID-19?

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread, call your doctor's office to get advice on how to proceed in your care.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

Prevention and treatment

There is currently no vaccine to prevent or treat COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care, like rest and drinking lots of fluids, to help relieve symptoms.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyday preventive actions, including:

- 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.

- 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.

- Follow the CDC's recommendations for using a face mask.

- The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

- Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of face masks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a healthcare facility).

For the most up-to-date information, visit NovantHealth.org/coronavirus or CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/



to prevent spreading virus, going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

For the most up-to-date information, visit NovantHealth.org/coronavirus or CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/



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PEACE,

#IWillNotYield



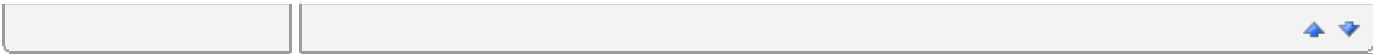
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Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building, 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008,
Raleigh, NC 27601

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