



**Pender County Situation Report #15
March 2020 Event
March 26, 2020 – Level 3**

The County is currently operating at EOC Status Level 3.

Changes from Previous Report Highlighted in Yellow

1. Incident Name March 2020 Event	2. Operational Period (Date / Time) 03/11/2020 – Ongoing. Monitoring Status	3. Date Prepared: 03/26/2020	4. Report No: 15
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5. Type of Incident: Pandemic

6. Declaration Information:

Date Issued	Declaration	Remarks
03/10/2020	State of Emergency	Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency. North Carolina Emergency Operations Center has been activated.
03/11/2020	Pandemic	The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.
03/13/2020	National Emergency	President Trump declared a national emergency to open access to up to \$50 billion for states and territories to respond to COVID-19.
03/17/2020	State of Emergency	Surf City and Topsail Beach declared a State of Emergency on March 17, 2020.
03/25/2020	Major Disaster	President Trump approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of North Carolina.

7. Current Situation:

EOC IS OPERATING AT A LEVEL 3 STATUS: Level 3 is a hazard specific response to an incident. This incident requires the assistance of several State agencies. The Emergency Operations Center is activated but only staffed with essential personnel. The EOC is not operating on 24-hour shifts. The EOC is only functioning during standard business hours.

Executive Orders 117, 118, and 119 issued by Governor Cooper and referenced in previous reports are still in effect except as amended by additional Executive Orders.

Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 120 on March 23, 2020, which instituted the following effective March 25, 2020:

- Mass gatherings of more than 50 persons in a single space or room are prohibited. This does not apply to airports, medical facilities, or other similar establishments.
- Entertainment facilities, such as bowling alleys, gyms, and movie theaters are ordered to close, though any retail or carry-out dining component may operate solely for that purpose.
- Personal care facilities such as barber shops, salons, and tattoo parlors are ordered to close.
- Appropriate local government agencies (e.g. Departments of Social Services, Registers of Deeds) are directed to continue to exercise their responsibilities.
- Long term care facilities shall restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel except for certain compassionate care situations.
- Public school closures are extended until at least May 15, 2020.

NC DHHS made statewide recommendations to minimize the spread of COVID-19:

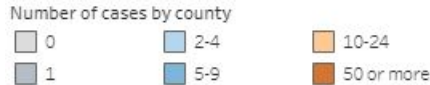
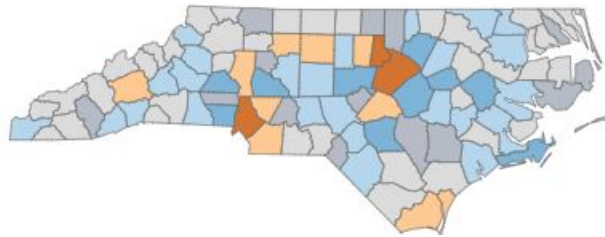
- high risk people (those over 65, with underlying health conditions, or with compromised immune systems) should avoid large congregations.
- Sick people should not attend mass gathering events, and travelers returning from impacted areas should follow [these DHHS steps](#).
- NC DHHS has set up a help line for COVID-19 related inquiries; 866-462-3821.

The following are phone lines staffed by State personnel where COVID-19 specific questions can be directed:

- A COVID-19 Public Assistance Hotline. PA applicants are encouraged to call this number if they have any questions; 919-825-2548.
- NC 2-1-1 is an information and referral service that families and individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on health and human services resources within their community.

The public can subscribe to text updates from NC DHHS regarding COVID-19 by texting COVIDNC to 898211.

Total as of 3/26/2020: 690



Note: Numbers are as reported by NC DHHS and county health departments to the Raleigh News & Observer.

8a. Fatalities in Pender County: 0

8b. Hospitalizations in Pender County: 0

8c. Reported COVID-19 Cases in NC: 690

9. Quarantine Status: NA

10. Threats to Human Life: Minimal

11. Threats to Structures: NA

12. Threats or Disruptions to Infrastructure: NA

13. Incident Area: Confirmed cases in southeastern NC Counties: Brunswick (11), Duplin (1), New Hanover (14), Onslow (4), and Sampson (1). The Pender County Health Department has tested five individuals to date, with three negative test results and two pending. Private providers and Pender Memorial Hospital are conducting additional tests. The Pender County Health Department has not been notified of any positive tests at this time.

14. External Affairs: Pender County remains in monitoring mode. The Public Information Officer and the communications team are monitoring the County's social media platforms and updating the County's website with accurate information.

15. County Action:

- Pender County Emergency Management and Health Departments are maintaining a monitoring status.
- The Emergency Operations Center is staffed from 8AM-5PM, Monday-Friday. Staff are monitoring the situation remotely over the weekend.
- 911 Dispatch Center did not receive any COVID-19 related calls in the last 24-hour operating period.
- Pender County School System is feeding students and anyone 18 or younger at 62 sites around the county, with specific information [available here](#). On Tuesday, the schools provided 8,848 meals for lunch and breakfast. Total meals served through Wednesday breakfast has reached 24,034.
- Pender County Schools is providing wi-fi hotspots for school-issued devices from 7 AM to 7 PM seven days a week at Pender High, Topsail High, and Heide Trask High. There is also a public wi-fi access point in the parking lot of the Pender County Public Library in Burgaw.
- Pender County Government is **strongly encouraging** appointments for in-person visits, information [available here](#).

16. Other Notes, Issues or Additional Remarks: Pursuant to EO 117 issued March 14, 2020, all persons are urged to maintain social distancing (approximately six feet away from other people) whenever possible and to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette (including coughing into elbow).

On March 16, President Trump advised that groups of 10 or more people should be avoided.

17. Prepared by: DLA, SLS, TNH

18. Reviewed by: CS