



Pender County Situation Report #33 - COVID-19 Event
April 13, 2020 - The County is operating at EOC Status Level 3.

Changes from Previous Report Highlighted in Yellow

1. Incident Name COVID-19 Event	2. Operational Period (Date / Time) 03/11/2020 – Ongoing.	3. Date Prepared: 04/13/2020	4. Report No: 33
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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.
03/30/2020	State of Emergency	Pender County, Atkinson, and Burgaw declared a State of Emergency on March 30, 2020.

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, with minimal weekend staffing.

Weather: Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a southwest wind 21 to 24 mph, with gusts as high as 38 mph. Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. Southwest wind 5 to 8 mph becoming light and variable. Winds could gust as high as 15 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny, with a high near 75. North wind around 8 mph becoming east in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 15 mph.

The National Weather Service is doing a survey now to determine if the damage today in Pender County was from a tornado. We have reports of several trees and power lines down as well as some property damage (mostly minor). The damage area starts at US 421 near Blueberry Road and runs northeast across the Long Creek area, US 117 at Ashton, and Shaw Highway near Holly Shelter. There have been no reports of injury at this time.

A wind advisory and a high surf advisory are in effect until 4 PM this afternoon.

Fire Weather: RP-1: Strong winds and severe thunderstorms are expected today. Most of the rain should move offshore this afternoon with sunshine developing. A cold front will stall offshore tonight. Low pressure developing along this front could bring more rain Tuesday night into Wednesday. High pressure will bring dry weather Thursday, but shower chances could return on Friday as the next front moves across the Carolinas. Wind profile analysis/fire control over flat terrain is Favorable. Fog potential for tonight is None.

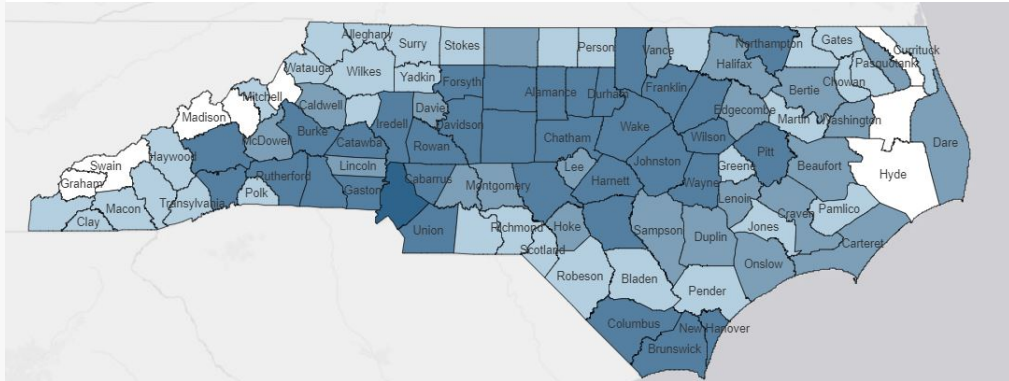
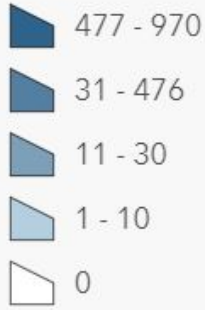
GOVERNOR COOPER EXECUTIVE ORDERS (EOs)

- **EOs 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, and 124** remain in effect except as superseded by subsequent orders. [Details here.](#)
- **EO 125 (April 1, 2020):** Authorized and encouraged remote shareholder meetings during the State of Emergency.
- **EO 129 (April 7, 2020):** Provided flexibility regarding certain law enforcement training courses.
- **EO 130 (April 8, 2020):** Provided more access to health care beds, expanded the pool of health care workers and ordered essential childcare services for workers responding to the crisis.
- **EO 131 (April 9, 2020):** Required retail stores that are still operating to implement new social distancing policies to make shopping safer for customers and employees; made earlier COVID-19 guidelines mandatory for nursing facilities, and recommended other long-term care facilities do the same; sped up the process to get benefits to people out of work

The public can subscribe to text updates from NC DHHS regarding COVID-19 by texting COVIDNC to 898211. The following are phone lines staffed by State personnel where COVID-19 specific questions can be directed:

- COVID-19 Public Assistance Hotline. PA applicants are encouraged to call this number with questions: 919-825-2548.
- NC DHHS has set up a help line for COVID-19 related inquiries: 866-462-3821.
- 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.

Cases



Note: Map and statewide case numbers are as reported by NC DHHS by 11 a.m. on **April 13, 2020.**

8a. Pender County Residents Who Have Tested Positive for COVID-19: 5 (Currently 4 in Pender County, one out-of-state)

8b. Hospitalizations in Pender County: 0

8c. Fatalities in Pender County: 0

8d. Reported COVID-19 Cases in North Carolina: 4,816 (NC DHHS)

8e. Hospitalizations in North Carolina: 313

8f. Fatalities in North Carolina: 86

9. Quarantine Status: NA

10. Threats or Disruptions to Infrastructure: NA

11. Incident Area: As of Thursday (4/9), the Pender County Health Department is aware of a total of ninety-nine (99) residents of Pender County who have been tested for COVID-19 by healthcare providers within the county. Of those tests, two (2) were confirmed positive, ninety (90) were confirmed negative, while seven (7) tests are currently pending. As many healthcare facilities are closed for the long weekend, updates from county providers will next be available on Tuesday (4/14). Additionally, there have been three (3) confirmed positive tests of Pender County residents performed by healthcare providers outside the county for **a total of five (5) Pender County residents who have tested positive for COVID-19.**

To respect patient privacy and comply with federal law, more specific information about these cases is not available. Every surrounding county has confirmed cases of COVID-19, so all Pender County residents should assume they are capable of getting or spreading the virus and take recommended precautions accordingly.

12. 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.

13. County Action:

- Pender County School System is feeding students and anyone 18 or younger at 56 sites, details [available here](#). Due to the closure of Beatty's Bridge Rd across the county line, the Yonder Store drop location will change to Shaky Bay Blueberry Farm (4676 Beatty's Bridge Rd) at the same stop time starting Monday (4/13). **Due to severe weather, Pender County Schools provided pick-up service but not meal drop service on April 13. Regular service will resume April 14.**
- 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, Heide Trask High, and West Pender Middle. 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](#). In accordance with the governor's order that teleworking be practiced to the maximum extent possible, many staff members began teleworking starting Tuesday, March 31.
- Pender County Board of Commissioners Chairman George Brown declared a State of Emergency effective Monday, March 30, 2020.

14. 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).

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

15. Prepared by: DLA, SLS, TNH

16. Reviewed by: CHS