



**Pender County Situation Report #44 - COVID-19 Event
April 24, 2020 - The County is operating at EOC Status Level 3.**

Changes from Previous Report Highlighted in Yellow

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| 1. Incident Name COVID-19 Event | 2. Operational Period (Date / Time) 03/11/2020 – Ongoing. | 3. Date Prepared: 04/24/2020 | 4. Report No: 44 |
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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. |
| 04/17/2020 | State of Emergency | Surf City and Topsail Beach modified their States of Emergency on April 17, 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 83. Southwest wind around 14 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
 Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.
 Tomorrow: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Northeast wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

For coastal Pender, a beach hazards statement and moderate rip current risk are in effect through this evening. There is a moderate risk of rip currents Saturday for Pender county beaches

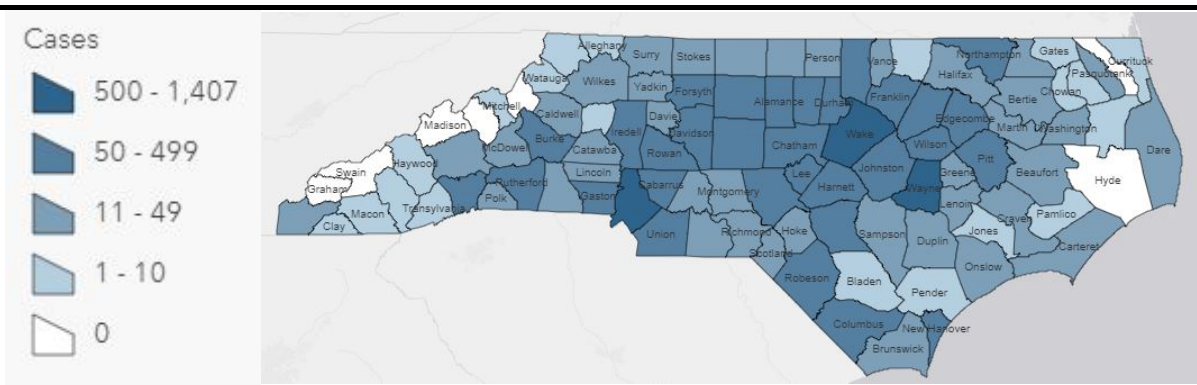
Fire Weather: RP-2: Dry weather with decreasing clouds is expected today. Afternoon wind gusts should reach 25 mph. A dry cold front will slide across the area tonight, followed by a second front late Saturday. Dry high pressure will be in control Sunday through Tuesday before a cold front brings more shower chances Wednesday. Wind profile analysis/fire control over flat terrain is Favorable. Fog potential for tonight is Low.

GOVERNOR COOPER EXECUTIVE ORDERS (EOs)

- **EOs 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, and 129** remain in effect except as superseded by subsequent orders. [Details here.](#)
- **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.
- **EO 133 (April 20, 2020):** Extended certain transportation-related provisions in previous executive orders.
- **EO 134 (April 20, 2020):** Allowed businesses flexibility to make payments that assist their employees.
- **EO 135 (April 23, 2020):** Extended stay at home order and orders limiting mass gatherings, requiring social distancing, and restricting visitation at long term care facilities.
- At a press conference today, Gov. Cooper announced that remote learning will continue for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

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.



Note: Map and statewide case numbers are as reported by NC DHHS by 11 a.m. on **April 24, 2020.**

8a. COVID-19 Positive Tests – Pender County Residents: 11 (see Box 9 for details)

8b. COVID-19 Hospitalizations – Pender County Residents: 1

8c. COVID-19 Deaths – Pender County Residents: 1

8d. Reported COVID-19 Cases in North Carolina: 8,052 (NC DHHS)

8e. Hospitalizations in North Carolina: 477

8f. Fatalities in North Carolina: 269

9. Incident Area: As of today (4/24), the Pender County Health Department is aware of a total of eleven (11) Pender County residents who have tested positive for COVID-19. Of the positive cases, four (4) are offenders at Pender Correctional, six (6) are in the community, and one (1) is out of state. Five (5) of the individuals who have tested positive have recovered, while one (1) is deceased.

The Pender County Health Department is aware of **one hundred and seventy-eight (178)** residents of Pender County tested for COVID-19 by healthcare providers within the county. Of those tests, **eight (8)** were confirmed positive, **one hundred and sixty-one (161)** were confirmed negative, while **nine (9)** tests are currently pending. There have been **three (3)** additional confirmed positive tests of Pender County residents performed by healthcare providers outside the county.

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.

10. 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.

11. County Action:

- Pender County School System is feeding students and anyone 18 or younger at 56 sites, details [available here.](#)
- 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.

12. 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.

13. Prepared by: DLA, SLS, TNH

14. Reviewed by: CHS