



**Pender County Situation Report #66 - COVID-19 Event
May 16, 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: 05/16/2020	4. Report No: 66
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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: Sunny, with a high near 86. Southeast wind 3 to 6 mph.

Tonight: Patchy fog between 2am and 3am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 63. Southeast wind 3 to 7 mph.

Tomorrow: A slight chance of showers after 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

High rip current risk in effect through this evening. For Sunday and Monday, expect an elevated rip current risk across all beaches.

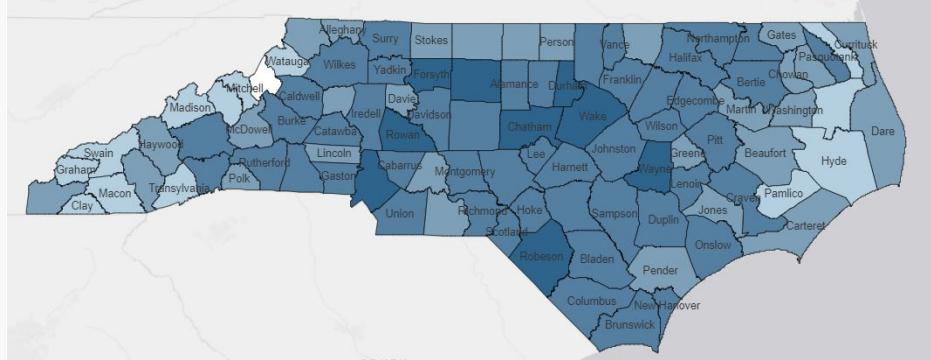
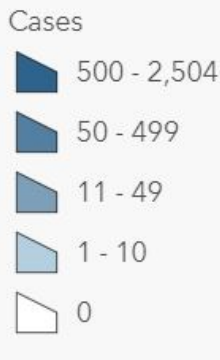
Fire Weather: RP-2: High pressure and dry weather will continue through the first part of Sunday. Low pressure will meanwhile develop as it moves NNE from the NW Bahamas, and is likely to become a subtropical or tropical cyclone as it passes off the Southeast U.S. Coast through Sunday night. This system is not expected to bring significant rainfall to the area at this time. A cold front will cross the area late Monday and may linger in the region Tuesday, increasing rainfall chances next week. Wind profile analysis/fire control over flat terrain is Favorable. Fog potential for tonight is Moderate.

GOVERNOR COOPER EXECUTIVE ORDERS (EOs)

- EOs 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 129, 130, 131, 133, and 134 remain in effect except as superseded by subsequent orders. [Details here.](#)
- 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.
- EO 136 (April 24, 2020):** Authorized and encouraged remote nonprofit corporation member and board meetings during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.
- EO 138 (May 5, 2020):** Eased restrictions on travel, business operations, and mass gatherings (“Phase 1”) beginning May 8, 2020 at 5:00 PM.
- EO 139 (May 12, 2020):** Provided additional regulatory flexibility to meet North Carolina’s health and human services needs
- At a press conference on 4/24, 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 May 16, 2020.

8a. COVID-19 Positive Tests – Pender County Residents: 46 (see Box 9 for details)

8b. COVID-19 Hospitalizations – Pender County Residents: 0

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

8d. Reported COVID-19 Cases in North Carolina: 17,982 (NC DHHS)

8e. Hospitalizations in North Carolina: 481

8f. Fatalities in North Carolina: 652

9. Incident Area: As of today (5/16), the Pender County Health Department is aware of **forty-six (46)** Pender County residents who have tested positive for COVID-19. Of the positive cases, **nineteen (19)** are offenders at Pender Correctional, **twenty-six (26)** are in the community, and one (1) is out of state. Eighteen (18) of the individuals who tested positive have recovered, while one (1) is deceased.

The Pender County Health Department is aware of **three hundred and sixty-six (366)** residents of Pender County tested for COVID-19 by healthcare providers within the county. Of those tests, **twenty-six (26)** were confirmed positive, **three hundred and twelve (312)** were confirmed negative, while **twenty-eight (28)** tests are currently pending. There have been **nineteen (19)** additional confirmed positive tests of Pender County residents performed by healthcare providers outside the county. **The source of one (1) additional positive test of a Pender County resident is currently pending confirmation.**

NC DHHS is now providing a map of COVID-19 cases by ZIP code, [available here](#). 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, West Pender Middle, and Penderlea School. 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. All teleworking staff are to report back to work on Tuesday, May 19th in preparation for re-opening.
- 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