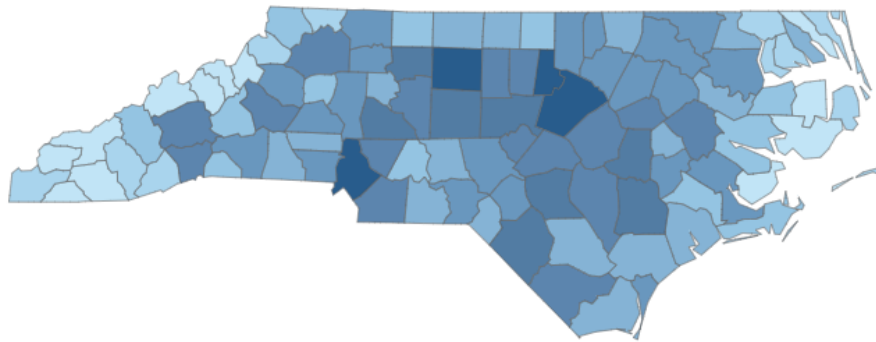




**Pender County Situation Report #73 - COVID-19 Event
May 23, 2020 - The County is operating at EOC Status Level 3.**

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: 05/23/2020	4. Report No: 73
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.	
<p>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.</p> <p>Weather: Today: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. West wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%. Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2am, then a slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. Light southwest wind. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms. Tomorrow: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms. There is a moderate risk of rip currents in effect through this evening.</p> <p>Fire Weather: RP-1: Localized afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms will be enhanced by a trough running across the area today. A cold front drops south late Sunday, followed by relatively cooler and dry high pressure building down from the north early to mid next week. Wind profile analysis/fire control over flat terrain is Favorable. Fog potential for tonight is Moderate.</p> <p>GOVERNOR COOPER EXECUTIVE ORDERS (EOs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOs 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 135, and 136 remain in effect except as superseded by subsequent orders. Details here. 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 EO 140 (May 18, 2020): Extended certain transportation-related provisions in EOs 116, 119, and 133. EO 141 (May 20, 2020): Eased restrictions on travel, business operations, and mass gatherings (“Phase 2”) beginning May 22, 2020 at 5:00 PM. At a press conference on 4/24, Gov. Cooper announced that remote learning will continue for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 			



Map Credit: NCDHHS



Note: Map and statewide case numbers are as reported by NC DHHS by 11 a.m. on May 23, 2020.

8a. COVID-19 Positive Tests – Pender County Residents: 69 (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: 22,725 (NC DHHS)

8e. Hospitalizations in North Carolina: 589

8f. Fatalities in North Carolina: 737

9. Incident Area: As of today (5/23), the Pender County Health Department is aware of a total of **sixty-nine (69)** Pender County residents who have tested positive for COVID-19. Of the positive cases, nineteen (19) are offenders at Pender Correctional, **forty-nine (49)** are in the community, and one (1) is out of state. Forty-one (41) of the individuals who tested positive have recovered, while one (1) is deceased.

The Pender County Health Department is aware of four hundred and ninety-six (496) residents of Pender County tested for COVID-19 by healthcare providers within the county. Of those tests, **forty-three (43)** were confirmed positive, four hundred and four (404) were confirmed negative, while forty-nine (49) tests are currently pending. There have been **twenty-six (26)** additional confirmed positive tests of Pender County residents performed by healthcare providers outside the county.

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 **Friday, May 22nd** 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