



**Pender County Situation Report #76 - COVID-19 Event  
May 26, 2020 - The County is operating at EOC Status Level 4.**

**Changes from Previous Report Highlighted in Yellow**

<b>1. Incident Name</b> COVID-19 Event	<b>2. Operational Period (Date / Time)</b> 03/11/2020 – Ongoing.	<b>3. Date Prepared:</b> 05/26/2020	<b>4. Report No:</b> 76
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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 4 STATUS. Level 4 involves any disaster or emergency situation that is likely to be within the capabilities of local government and results in only minimal need for state assistance. The Emergency Operations Center is activated with staff as needed. State agency contacts that are involved in standard operations for Pender County are notified of the event and prepared to provide assistance.

**Weather:** Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. East wind around 7 mph.

Tonight: A chance of showers, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. East wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Tomorrow: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 9am. High near 79. Northeast wind 8 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

**There is a moderate risk of rip currents in effect through this evening. Moderate to heavy rain could lead to minor flooding late tonight into Wednesday. There is also a small potential for severe storms late tonight into Wednesday, with the main threats being damaging wind gusts and isolated tornadoes.**

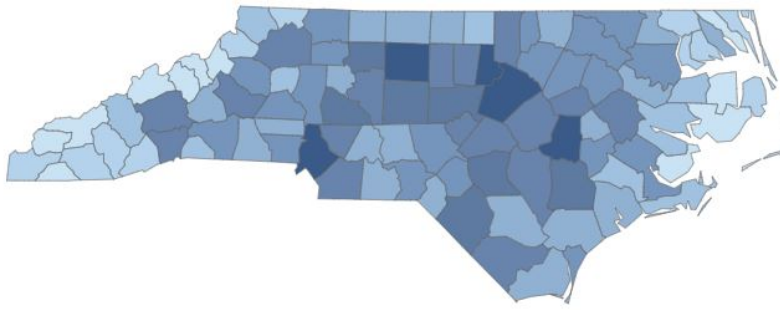
**Fire Weather:** RP-2: Low pressure developing across Florida will move north across the Carolinas on Wednesday, bringing moderate to heavy rain and increasing winds to the area. Humid south winds and frequent chances for rain continue until Saturday before a cold front passage. Wind profile analysis/fire control over flat terrain is Favorable. Fog potential for tonight is Low.

**GOVERNOR COOPER EXECUTIVE ORDERS (EOs)**

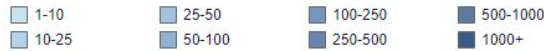
- EOs 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 135, and 136 remain in effect except as superseded by subsequent orders. [Details here.](#)
- **EO 138 (May 5, 2020):** Eased restrictions on travel, business operations, and mass gatherings (“Phase 1”) beginning May 8, 2020 at 5:00 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.

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.



Map Credit: NCDHHS



Note: Map and statewide case numbers are as reported by NC DHHS by 11 a.m. on May 26, 2020.

**8a. COVID-19 Positive Tests – Pender County Residents: 73 (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: 24,140 (NC DHHS)**

**8e. Hospitalizations in North Carolina: 621**

**8f. Fatalities in North Carolina: 766**

**9. Incident Area:** As of today (5/26), the Pender County Health Department is aware of **seventy-three (73)** Pender County residents who have tested positive for COVID-19. Of the positive cases, nineteen (19) are offenders at Pender Correctional, **fifty-three (53)** are in the community, and one (1) is out of state. **Forty-four (44)** of the individuals who tested positive have recovered, while one (1) is deceased.

The Pender County Health Department is aware of **five hundred and twenty-nine (529)** residents of Pender County tested for COVID-19 by healthcare providers within the county. Of those tests, **forty-six (46)** were confirmed positive, **four hundred and fifty-three (453)** were confirmed negative, while **thirty (30)** tests are currently pending. There have been twenty-seven (27) 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 without special accommodations should report back to work by Monday, June 1st. While walk-ins are permitted at this time, the public is encouraged to call or make an appointment to access county services.**
- 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