



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
March 23, 2020

Karen Powell, Public Health Director
Steve Garrison, Rutherford County Manager
Frankie Hamrick, Emergency Management Director

03-23-2020: RUTHERFORD COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

The Rutherford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open and staffed by local agencies including local Emergency Management/County Government, Rutherford County Health Department, Rutherford County Emergency Communications, Rutherford County EMS, and Rutherford Regional Medical Center. As of March 23, 2020, there have been no positive cases of COVID-19 in Rutherford County. The Health Department indicates that a total of 64 individuals have been tested in the county so far, but this number is changing often. The Health Department is continuing to test qualified individuals with a dedicated Testing-Tent/Team at the Rutherford County Health Department. Also, a COVID-19 Medical Screening Hotline is open for any individual that thinks they have been exposed to the virus or if they are experiencing a fever. The number for this hotline is (828) 289-1185. The operator will ask a list of screening questions and will provide the caller with the appropriate medical instructions based upon the answers given. The hours of operation for this hotline are 8AM – 5PM, 7 days per week. The Rutherford County Health Department would like to stress the importance of practicing good hand hygiene, avoiding close contact with others, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes. As a reminder 911 is available for any **Emergency** calls.

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