



**Foothills Health District (FHD)**  
Foothills Health District Health Department  
<http://www.foothillshd.org/>



April 18, 2020

The Rutherford County Health Department has confirmed that 14 individuals, including patients along with their contacts, have tested positive for novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to an outbreak associated with a home health agency within Rutherford county.

Additionally, numerous Rutherford County Residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 have been connected to out-of-county clusters.

Currently, 50 separate households contain the 73 total positive cases in Rutherford County.

Public health staff have already initiated investigations into these cases and will be identifying close contacts to contain the spread of disease. Additionally, Public Health is working to ensure that proper testing is taking place to identify additional cases. To protect individual privacy, no further information about the cases will be released.

The Rutherford County Health Department and Rutherford County Emergency Management will keep the public informed by announcing any additional cases that may arise through our local media partners.

Rutherford County Health Director. Karen Powell stated “the continual rise in numbers for Rutherford County is extremely concerning. The positive results represent clear transmission county wide. It is evident that transmission is coming from contacts with positives, contacts outside the county as well as community wide transmission. We also have positives that do not have traceable origins. The incubation period of the virus is frightening to me because people can be asymptomatic for potential weeks, be sharing the virus with others and not even realize it. This is where we get into trouble with community spread. I can’t say it enough for community members to stay at home unless necessary. Assume that every time you leave your home, you are potentially exposed to COVID-19.”

*For additional information about Foothills Health District or other community resources and health related data, please call our offices, Rutherford Co. (828) 287-6100, McDowell (828) 652-6811, or visit our website at <http://www.foothillshd.org/>*

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