



Foothills Health District (FHD)



September 22, 2020

Today's update will reflect 41 additional Rutherford County residents that have tested positive for novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are also saddened to announce 2 more COVID-19 related deaths.

This brings the total number of positives to 1,157, with 124 total active cases, 12 hospitalizations, and 31 deaths.

The new results in this update are largely from three outbreaks in three different congregate living facilities within Rutherford County. The Rutherford County Health Department and Emergency Management are working diligently with these facilities to contain the outbreaks and provide support where it is needed. Data concerning these outbreaks can be seen by visiting the following link: <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/dashboard/Weekly-COVID19-Ongoing-Outbreaks.pdf>. Please keep in mind that this report from NCDHHS will update every Tuesday and Friday at 4 p.m.

“The increase in positive numbers is concerning, especially in the congregate living facilities. We must protect this vulnerable population. Please continue to be mindful of large gatherings, inside or out and always be vigilant in wearing your face covering, social distancing and washing your hands. These steps are critical to keeping our positive numbers down. The Emergency Operations Center and Public Health are committed to protecting the community. It is our sole focus to stop the spread of COVID19 and keep Rutherford County healthy and safe.” stated Public Health Director Karen Powell.

For those unable to access this link, the current data for each outbreak is as follows:

The outbreak at Oak Grove Healthcare Center has a current total of 13 cases, with 5 being staff and 8 being residents. There has been 1 COVID-19 related death from the outbreak at this facility. The outbreak at Accordius Health at Rutherford has a current total of 14 cases, with 12 being staff and 2 being residents. There have been 0 COVID-19 related deaths from the outbreak at this facility. The outbreak at Willow Ridge Rehab and Living Center has a current total of 53 cases, with 14 being staff and 39 being residents. There have been 3 COVID-19 related deaths from the outbreak this facility.

The Rutherford County Health Department will continue to provide updates on the status of these outbreaks as they are available. The Foothills Health District is also continuing efforts in contact tracing any positives and close contacts of positives within the community. If an individual would like to be tested, they can call the medical screening hotline at (828) 289-1185. The operator will ask a list of questions and will provide the caller with the appropriate instructions based upon the answers given. The hours of operation for this hotline are 8:30AM – 5PM, Mon. - Fri. If you are having a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 and inform the dispatcher that you have symptoms of 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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