

CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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For Immediate Release

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Carteret County COVID-19 NCDHHS Expands Provider Guidance for Testing Press Release #40

Carteret County, NC – As of Monday, April 20, 2020, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) updated their healthcare provider guidance for COVID-19 testing. Previously, testing guidance was restricted due to the lack of testing and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies. Testing supplies and lab capacities have increased allowing the NCDHHS testing guidance to expand.

Effective immediately, healthcare providers can consider testing through private laboratories for any patient where COVID-19 is suspected. However, healthcare providers using the State Laboratory for Public Health must continue to adhere to strict criteria established by NCDHHS.

Persons who are experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19 such as fever and cough should immediately self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider to determine if they need to be tested. To help the healthcare provider prepare for your potential visit, it is requested that you call your healthcare provider ahead of time to allow them the ability to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and other patients.

If you do not have a healthcare provider, are uninsured, or if your healthcare provider is not administering tests for COVID-19, please contact the Health Department at 252-728-8550. A nurse will review your symptoms and determine if you meet testing criteria.

“We are very pleased to see the State’s relaxed testing criteria. Testing is a key part to fully understanding the spread of this virus in our community. Nothing about the response to this pandemic has been easy and we fully expect to continue to see changing guidance. Since we will be expanding testing, we expect to find and report more confirmed cases,” stated Stephanie Cannon, Carteret County Health Director.

For more information on COVID-19 in Carteret County, call the Citizens Inquiry Hotline at 252-726-7060. If you have questions about antibody testing, please contact your healthcare provider.

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