

# CARTERET COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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For Immediate Release

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## **Carteret County COVID-19 NCDHHS Updates Guidance on Who Should be Tested for COVID-19 Press Release #54**

**Carteret County, NC** - NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) updated their healthcare provider guidance for COVID-19 testing and Carteret County health officials are encouraging all residents, even those without symptoms, to speak with their healthcare provider or the Health Department about receiving a test.

The guidance recommends healthcare providers ensure the following populations have access to testing:

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19
- Close contacts of known positive cases, regardless of symptoms
- Persons who live in or have regular contact with high risk settings
- Persons who are at high risk of severe illness
- Persons from historically marginalized populations
- Healthcare workers or first responders
- Frontline and essential workers in settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain

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. You can make an appointment to be tested at the Health Department parking lot in your vehicle.

“It is extremely important for those at high-risk for severe illness, those at greatest risk for exposure as well as those who are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to get tested. Also, we know persons can have COVID-19, but not show any symptoms. Realizing persons can be transmitting the virus to others, unknowingly, reinforces the importance of social distancing, wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible, and frequently washing your hands,” stated Stephanie Cannon, Carteret County Health Director.

Persons tested for COVID-19 will be instructed to stay home until their results are received. If a person tests positive, the Health Department nursing staff will give further instruction to the individual, conduct contact tracing to determine close contact exposure, and request close contacts to schedule an appointment with their healthcare provider or the Health Department to get tested. If a person tests negative, it does not mean they have not contracted COVID-19 previously or cannot contract it in the future.

For more information about COVID-19 in Carteret County, please call the Citizens Inquiry Hotline at 252-726-7060, Monday – Friday from 8am to 5 pm. Members of the public should call 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162 or text COVIDNC to 898211.

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