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# CLEVELAND COUNTY

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## PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

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### **Twenty-one More Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in County since Last Week**

SHELBY, NC – Today, the Cleveland County Health Department announced eight (8) new cases of COVID-19, bringing the county’s total positive case count to eighty-three (83). Twenty-one (21) of these cases have been identified since last week.

“As more people leave their home to visit various businesses and other public places that are opening as part of the Governor’s reopening plan, we anticipate seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases in the county,” Cleveland County Deputy Director DeShay Oliver said. “The more that people leave their home, the more opportunities they have to potentially be exposed to the virus. That is why it is so important to wait six feet apart, wear a cloth face covering, and always wash your hands when you go to public places.”

Of the total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cleveland County, approximately fifteen percent (15%) of the cases have been in individuals who have remained asymptomatic throughout their entire isolation period.

“Because individuals can have COVID-19 without any symptoms, we cannot protect ourselves by simply keeping our distance from individuals who appear to be symptomatic. We should take proper precautions every time we leave our home,” Oliver said.

The increase in cases in the county can also be partly attributed to the fact that the Cleveland County Public Health Center and other healthcare providers are working to increase testing capacity in the county. Approximately 100 tests are being conducted daily in Cleveland County.

“We are now recommending that everyone identified as a direct contact to a confirmed case get tested for the virus, even if they are asymptomatic,” Oliver explained. “We have identified many of our more recent cases this way. However, it has become more difficult to conduct contact tracing because people are going more places and have more contacts. This has led to a pretty significant increase in the number of tests that are being conducted on a daily basis.”

As of this release, just under 2,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted. Of the eighty-three (83) total cases, twenty-nine (29) are active and fifty-two (52) have recovered. The total number of COVID deaths in the county remains at two.

To learn more about Phase 2 of the Governor’s reopening plan or for sector-specific guidance for businesses, please visit <https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/staying-ahead-curve>.

To view the Cleveland County COVID-19 case count by ZIP code in both map and table format, visit [www.clevelandcounty.com](http://www.clevelandcounty.com), click on “County Departments,” select “Health Department,” and then click on “Coronavirus Information.” You can also receive daily COVID-19 updates by following the Cleveland County Health Department’s Facebook page @clevelandcountyhealthdepartment.

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