

PRESS RELEASE Contact: Eddie Settle Chairman, Wilkes County Board of Commissioners  
November 18, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilkes County would like to provide citizens an update on the recent spike of cases in our County. North Carolina is experiencing high levels of community transmission statewide. Wilkes currently has 2,354 COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases, 29 hospitalized, and 276 active cases of this morning. As of earlier this week Wilkes has had 557 new cases over the past 14 days and was identified as one of 10 counties of concern in the state with the introduction of the new COVID-19 County Alert System. On Monday, November 16, 2020 Wilkes County reassigned several County Employees to work with the Wilkes County Health Department on contact tracing to help identify close contacts from a positive test. This is to help these folks with a quicker notification so they can isolate at home to help slow community spread. Wilkes County continues to work diligently on tracing, testing, and educating citizens of Wilkes. Wilkes Health is working with all facilities to provide them with the most up to date CDC guidance available. Same day testing is widely available and free at 2 PM each weekday at the Wilkes County Health Department. Wilkes Health does ask that you call their office at 336-651-7450 to schedule an appointment prior to testing. Citizens can also receive a test at many Private Doctors Offices, Urgent Care Facilities, and the Hospital.

Wilkes County wants to remind the public that wide spread community transmission as well as person-to-person transmission is happening in the county. Wilkes County wants to encourage folks to stay home to the fullest extent possible to help break the chain of transmission and would like to encourage citizens to protect themselves to help lessen the spread of COVID-19 in our community. There are many ways we can protect ourselves and our communities.

#### **How to Protect Yourself:**

- Practice social distancing which means avoid in-door gatherings of more than 10 people, keep 6 feet or more between you and others, and remain home to the greatest extent possible
- Frequent hand washing
- Stay at home when you're sick
- Keep distance from others who are sick
- Avoid touching your face
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces in common areas such as doorknobs, remotes, light switches, tables and handles
- Wear cloth mask or face covering when out in public
- Follow all CDC guidelines
- Follow all N.C. Department of Health and Human Services guidelines