



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health

Division of Public Health

March 18, 2020

To: All North Carolina Clinicians and Hospitals

From: Zack Moore, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist, NC DHHS

Re: COVID-19 transmission in North Carolina

As you are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is expanding rapidly globally and in the United States. The number of cases confirmed in North Carolina has also rapidly increased over the past two weeks.

To date, all cases confirmed in North Carolina have been among person who had either traveled out of state or been exposed to a known case during the incubation period. However, based on the increased number of cases in our state and on national and regional trends, **we believe that community transmission of COVID-19 is now occurring in communities across North Carolina.**

We recognize that many practices and healthcare systems have phased response plans that are based in part on an assessment of state or local epidemiology of COVID-19. We urge these groups to consider the above assessment and proceed with changes to their responses accordingly.

Thank you for all that you have done and will do to protect the health of North Carolinians during this difficult time. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is committed to providing the most current information and guidance to assist you in your efforts. Information and updates are available at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus.

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