



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 14, 2020

### **Surry County Health And Nutrition Center Responds to COVID-19 Outbreak**

**Dobson, NC—05/14/2020—** Surry County Health and Nutrition Center is currently reporting 67 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 1 death associated with COVID-19 complications as of May 14, 2020. One of Surry County’s largest employers, Wayne Farms, has a small number of cases at its Dobson Poultry Processing Facility, and those cases have been termed an outbreak under the state of North Carolina’s strict definition of two or more cases of a disease within a group of people over a given period of time.

“We are working hand in hand with local health officials and in full conformance with CDC, OSHA and public health guidance—with a very low percentage of our employee population testing positive for the virus, we believe these efforts have helped prevent the introduction and spread of the virus within our facility,” said Wayne Farms spokesperson Frank Singleton.

“Wayne Farms has been excellent to work with, applying and enforcing the necessary control measures to prevent further spread including masking employees, completing employee temperature checks, and maintaining distance between workers. Employees with confirmed COVID-19 have been self-isolated and are following all precautions before returning to work,” said Surry County Health Director, Samantha Ange.

Staff at Surry County Health and Nutrition Center are strictly following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) steps of an outbreak investigation to ensure quick response. This requires close contact with Wayne Farms, finding cases systematically, performing contact tracing, and implementing control and prevention measures.

According to the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) there is no evidence that food or food packaging is associated with the transmission of COVID-19.

It is imperative that citizens continue to adhere to the standards set forth by NC Governor Roy Cooper and practice social distancing of at least 6 feet, in addition to following the practical measures listed below:

- Performing frequent hand hygiene. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always be sure to wash your hands with soap and water when hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your face-eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid crowded settings, if unavoidable, practice social distancing of 6 feet.
- Stay home if you are sick.

- Frequently clean high touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, handrails, table surfaces, desks, keyboards, etc.)
- Practice cough/sneeze etiquette. Cover coughing/sneezing with your elbow, not your hands. Do not reuse tissues, and wash or use hand sanitizer after blowing your nose, using tissues, or touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission

For more information on COVID-19, stay informed with the most reliable information from [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [NCDHHS.gov](https://www.ncdhhs.gov). For general questions about COVID-19, calls may be made to the Poison Control Hotline at 1-866-462-3821.