



ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
Partners in Public Health

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO
LONG TERM CARE FACILITY IN ELIZABETH CITY**

Elizabeth City, NC - Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is working with long term Care facility, Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation, to provide guidance and assistance on an outbreak of COVID- 19. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases in a facility.

When an outbreak is identified, additional contact tracing and testing is required in order to manage exposures and ensure proper steps are taken to protect both staff and residents. Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation are proactively managing the situation in order to quickly mobilize resources and actions to limit additional spread of the virus. Management and staff from the facility have been in close contact with ARHS communicable disease staff and are following local and state guidance.

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“The safety of residents and staff has always been and continues to be a top priority at Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation. This has never been truer than in our current situation. The elderly are especially susceptible to this virus and as healthcare providers, we agree that stopping its spread is a critical issue that requires our complete attention and most competent efforts. The Leadership at Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation is in very close communication with local, state and federal health officials to ensure we continue to take the appropriate recommended actions,” states Darin Hopping, Regional Operations Manager, SanStone Healthcare.

Staff at the facility have been and continue to perform safety measures beyond what the Centers for Disease Control has recommended. Preventive measures have included: restricting visitors from entering the facility, cancelling all group activities, and screening staff, residents, healthcare providers, and local emergency management. Additionally, screening measures that include at a minimum taking resident daily temperatures, performing respiratory assessments and monitoring other medical information beyond what is normally required have been implemented. Isolation precautions, appropriate use of PPE and cleaning procedures have and continue to be at the forefront of daily processes.

“ARHS stands committed to working with Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation to assist them in preventing the spread of COVID-19 to ensure the health and safety of their residents and staff,” states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, Health Director.

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Public health interventions are and will continue to be an important tool to reduce transmission and prevent the spread of COVID-19. ARHS is continuing to ask our community citizens to be vigilant in practicing preventive and safety measures that will help prevent the spread of the virus.

These precautions include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- 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 wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Practice social distancing; stay at least six feet away from others, avoid unnecessary travel, avoid handshakes, hugs and other close contact.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public when social distancing measures are hard to maintain.

ARHS encourages the community to visit the following websites for credible information:

Albemarle Regional Health Services - <http://www.arhs-nc.org/> or call 252-338-WELL

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

For more information, please contact Amy Underhill, ARHS Public Information Officer at 252-338-4448 or aunderhill@arhs-nc.org.

Albemarle Regional Health Services is dedicated to disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy environment to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability through quality service, education, and advocacy.

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