

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

JULY 13, 2020
OTHERS PRESENT

B. Ray Jeffers
Jimmy B. Clayton
Kyle W. Puryear
Gordon Powell
C. Derrick Sims

Heidi York, County Manager
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board
C. Ronald Aycock, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 9:00am in the commissioners' boardroom in the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Jeffers called the meeting to order.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to immediately relocate the Board meeting from its boardroom to the County Office Building Auditorium. Following this motion, a brief recess was called at 9:00am for the transition of the meeting to the auditorium.

In the auditorium at 9:05am, Chairman Jeffers reconvened the meeting. Commissioner Sims offered an invocation and Commissioner Puryear led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves attended the meeting via telephone conference.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Clayton requested to add to the agenda, an item for designating a voting delegate for the NC Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton and **carried 5-0** to add to the agenda, an item for designating a voting delegate for the National Association of Counties Annual Conference and to approve the agenda as adjusted.

July 13, 2020

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

The following individuals appeared before the Board to make informal comments:

Mr. John Seepe of 277 Barefoot Landing Lane, Semora spoke against removing the Confederate memorials and asked the Board to keep the memorials in place to honor those who served.

Mr. Charlie Palmer of 114 S. Morgan St., Roxboro provided the group with some history of monuments and provided a summation of meetings and discussions he had participated.

Mr. Raymond Winstead of 4271 Semora Rd, Roxboro said the monuments honor the men who served in war. Mr. Winstead opposed removal and relocation of the monuments. Mr. Winstead said the monuments were not racial, and did not want the history taken away by removing them. He wanted the Board to save its history.

Ms. Shaina Outlaw of 314 N. Charles St., Roxboro and Personians Against Injustices and Racism Secretary stated that the Confederate statues were being guarded as she attempted to have a conversation, she felt threatened not to touch the statues; she felt the statues represented hate, prejudice and racism. Ms. Outlaw requested the Board to consider the benefits to relocate the statues to the Veterans Park.

Ms. April Short of 495 Lester Burch Rd, Roxboro and Personians Against Injustices and Racism President stated they had over 800 signatures to relocate the statues to the Veterans Park. Ms. Short said the statues, in front of courthouse, are intimidating to many citizens.

Mr. Jonathon Chance Sanford of 1254 Pointer St., Roxboro and Personians Against Injustices and Racism Sergeant at Arms stated the petition has 916 signatures to remove or relocate the statues to the Veterans Park; he said they did not serve a purpose in front of the courthouse.

Ms. Linda Ford of Hillhaven Terrace, Roxboro, and a Daughter of the Confederacy noted her opposition to removing the Confederate monuments. She told the group that the monuments were not about race. Ms. Ford said she wanted to ensure the General Statutes were satisfied.

July 13, 2020

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to approve the Consent Agenda with the following items:

- A. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2020,
- B. Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2020, and
- C. Budget Amendment #1

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS AND STATUTES:

The following documents were provided to the Board for consideration and discussion:

- 1) General Statute 100-2.1 Protection of monuments, memorials, and works of art,
- 2) President Trump's Executive Order on Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statutes and Combating Recent Criminal Violence,
- 3) Letter received from Avie Lester, Sr., President of the Person County Branch NAACP, and
- 4) An electronic petition provided from Jonathan Chance Sanford, Spokesman for P.A.I.R., Personians Against Injustices and Racism

Chairman Jeffers said he had received the petition and letter noted above and wanted the Board to have proactive discussion to find a fit for the memorials. He said the Veteran's Park Council had approved to accept the memorials.

County Attorney, Ron Aycock stated the law was intended for the protection of monuments, memorials and works of art. He said the law prohibits the removal of such objects of remembrance located on public property, whether temporarily or permanently, except under certain circumstances. Mr. Aycock said those circumstances include the need to protect the object or memorial and the safety of the public. He noted memorials in Granville and Franklin Counties have been removed. Mr. Aycock further noted the purpose focuses on protection of the monuments from destruction or damage as well as public safety. Mr. Aycock pointed out that the Board had heard public concerns as well as public confrontations on the courthouse grounds related to the Confederate monuments, and the Board must legally consider these concerns.

Mr. Aycock said the general statute cited specific limitations on where such a monument may be relocated. He noted an object of remembrance that is permanently relocated shall be relocated to a site of similar prominence, honor, visibility, availability, and access that are within the boundaries of the jurisdiction from which it was relocated. An object of remembrance may not be relocated to a museum, cemetery, or mausoleum unless it was originally placed at such location. He added the relocation of the Confederate monuments to the Person County Veterans Park would be compliant with the statute.

A **motion** was made by Chairman Jeffers to relocate the two Confederate monuments to the Veterans Park and to fund the cost from the County's Fund Balance.

County Manager, Heidi York stated two estimates have been obtained to relocate two Confederate memorials: one local estimate and the other from a Raleigh company both estimating the relocation costs at \$20,000.

A member of Person Veteran's Council, Ms. Theresa Burch, stated they would rather see monuments relocated than have a divided community.

A **substitute motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 3-2** to table the discussion until non-county funds are presented to be used for the removal costs. Commissioners Puryear, Sims and Vice Chairman Powell voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Jeffers and Commissioner Clayton voted in opposition to the motion.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Health Director, Janet Clayton updated the Board on Person County's COVID-19. Since early 2020, the Person County Health Department (PCHD) and community partners have coordinated preparations and response efforts around COVID-19. On March 16, the Board of Commissioners issued a Declaration of Emergency. During this time, the Emergency Operations Center and the Joint Information Center were activated.

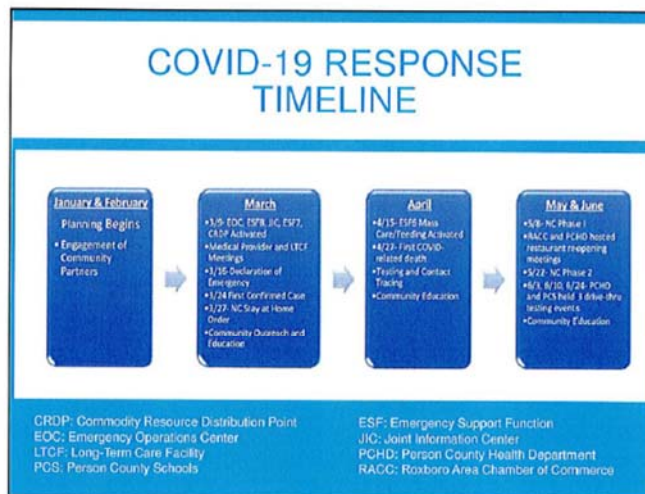
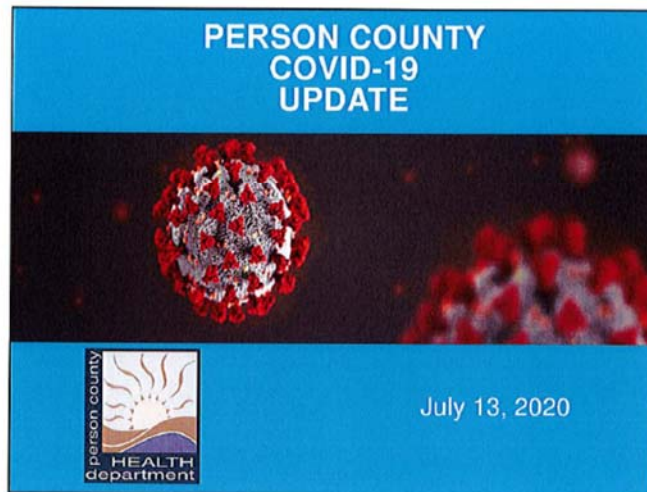
The first case of COVID-19 in Person County was confirmed on March 24th. Since this time, Health Department staff have contacted, interviewed, and monitored all confirmed cases and their close contacts.


Person County Emergency Management continues to support COVID-19 response through the coordination of resource requests from local medical providers and other community partners.

Additionally, PCHD continues to provide community education and support to local medical providers and partners. Public information is disseminated using the Person County Response Portal, various social media platforms, and media releases. The Health Department also provides information through the COVID-19 Information Line.

Ms. Clayton shared the following informative presentation with the Board:


7/13/2020






COVID-19 Response

- ESF 2 and 8- Communications and EMS
 - Multiple 911 COVID protocol changes
 - EMS averages 12-15 fully COVID outfitted PPE weekly, and limited PPE on all other calls
- Commodity Resource Distribution Point (CRDP) and ESF7 (Resource Support), as of July 8:
 - Received 37 deliveries at CRDP
 - 177 resource requests
 - 148 requests completed
 - 13 in progress
 - 16 cancelled by requester
 - 72 requests made to State for resources




COVID-19 Response

- ESF-6 Mass Care/Feeding
 - Coordinated by EM and Social Services
 - Includes Person County Schools
- Person County Schools
 - Has provided approximately 133,500 meals to children




COVID-19 TESTS


Types of Tests



Diagnostic


- ☐ Shows active infection
- ☐ Two types of diagnostic tests
 - ☐ molecular (RT-PCR) tests that detect the virus's genetic material
 - ☐ antigen tests that detect specific proteins on the surface of the virus



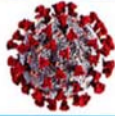


Antibody

- ☐ Looks for antibodies made during immune response
- ☐ Antibodies can take several days or weeks to develop after infection
- ☐ Antibody tests should not be used to diagnose an active coronavirus infection
- ☐ Unknown how antibodies correlate to immunity



CDC/WHO | COVID-19 Testing Update June 15, 2020

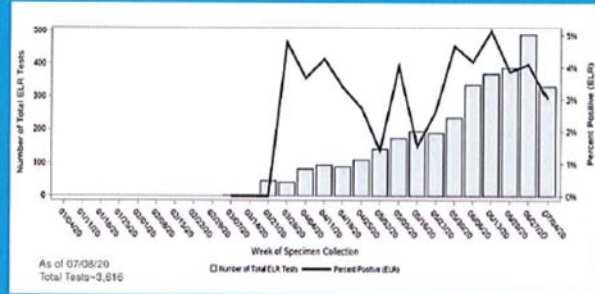


CURRENT STATISTICS

(AS OF 7/12/2020)

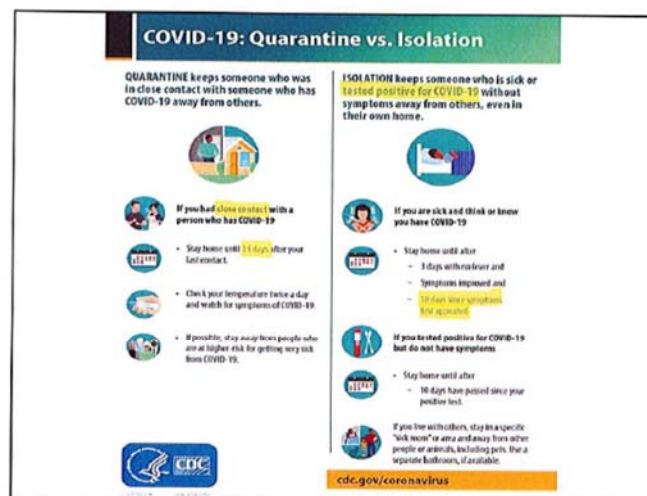
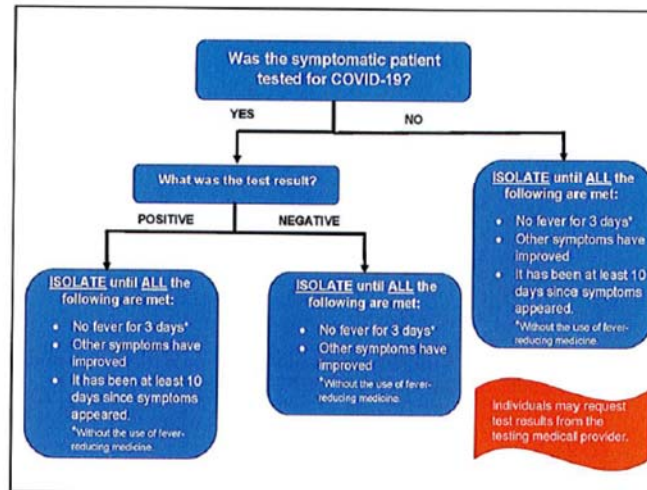
	Laboratory Confirmed Cases	COVID Related Deaths
Global ¹	12,821,887	567,123
United States ¹	3,288,788	135,118
North Carolina ²	85,701	1,503
Person County	128	1

¹ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
² <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>



CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

- Individuals with positive test results = confirmed case
- PCHD nursing staff contact each confirmed case
 - Case investigation includes:
 - Symptoms and symptom onset
 - Close contact names and contact information
 - History of activities including employment
- PCHD staff contact each close contact
 - Approximately 450 close contacts
- Currently utilizing 1 contact tracer from the State initiative





CONTINUED RESPONSE

- Continue to contact confirmed cases and close contacts
- Assist individuals through the COVID Information Line
 - To date, PCHD staff have assisted 344 callers.
- Provide guidance to medical providers, long-term care facilities, and community partners
- Provide county-level data including demographics weekly
- Participate in weekly NC Division of Public Health Calls and monitor daily NCDPH Updates

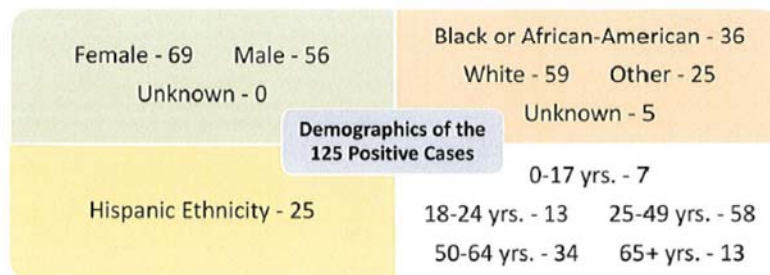
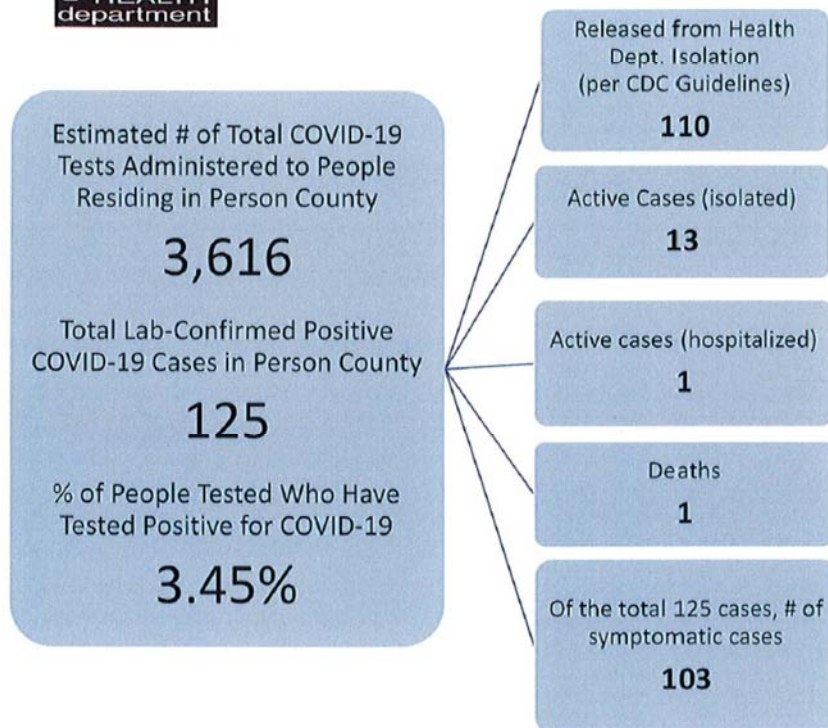




Weekly COVID-19 Status Report

(report produced 7/8/2020)

Data reported is from 3/1/2020 through 7/8/2020
(Sources: PCHD, NC Department of Health & Human Services)



County Manager, Heidi York thanked Ms. Clayton and her staff for their efforts throughout this COVID-19 event.

July 13, 2020

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Chairman Jeffers presented interested citizen applications for current vacancies received in response to an ad published in the local newspaper with a deadline to submit by July 7, 2020.

Board of Adjustment

3-Year Term: 1 position available

1) Joey T. Whitt requested reappointment

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to reappoint Joey T. Whitt to the Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term.

Board of Health

3-Year Term:

1 position for a pharmacist: 1) Ted Michie requested reappointment

1 position for an engineer:

A **motion** was made by Chairman Jeffers and **carried 5-0** to reappoint Ted Michie to the Board of Health as the pharmacist representative for a 3-year term.

Environmental Issues Advisory Committee

3-Year Term: 1 position for a citizen residing in each of the following townships:

Bushy Fork:

Holloway:

Olive Hill: 1) Sandy Pleasant requested reappointment

Mt. Tirzah:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to reappoint Sandy Pleasant as the Olive Hill Township representative on the Environmental Issues Advisory Committee for a 3-year term.

Voluntary Agriculture District Board

3-Year Term

Mt. Tirzah Township: 1) Hunter Thomas requested appointment

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton and **carried 5-0** to appoint Hunter Thomas as the Mt. Tirzah Township representative on the Voluntary Agriculture District Board for a 3-year term.

DESIGNATION OF A VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE NC ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Clayton and **carried 5-0** to designate Chairman Jeffers as Person County's voting delegate at the NC Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Jeffers had no report.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager, Heidi York introduced newly hired Library Director, Tina Norris whose first day of employment with the County was on June 22, 2020.

COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:

There were no reports or comments from Commissioners Powell, Clayton, Puryear and Sims.

CLOSED SESSION #1

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to enter into Closed Session at 10:09am per General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee for the purpose to discuss personnel with the following individuals permitted to attend: County Manager, Heidi York and Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves via telephone conference. The Closed Session would take place in the Board's usual meeting room 215 in the County Office Building.

Chairman Jeffers called for a brief recess at 10:09am to transition the Closed Session to the Board's usual meeting room 215.

The Closed Session was called to order at 10:13am.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Sims and **carried 5-0** to return to open session at 10:26am.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the Board's upcoming board meetings in the County Office Building Auditorium to allow for social distancing as well as to accommodate more attendees at the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 10:27am.

Brenda B. Reaves
Clerk to the Board

B. Ray Jeffers
Chairman