MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LINK TO MEDIA RELEASE

Orange County Health Department Reporting Second COVID-19 Associated Death

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. April 11, 2020 – A second Orange County resident has died from complications associated with the virus, COVID-19. The patient was in their 60's and was a resident at PruittHealth – Carolina Point, one of two long-term care facilities in Orange County where there are outbreaks of COVID-19. To protect the families' privacy, no further information about the patient will be released.

"COVID-19 continues to take a toll on our community. We are heartbroken to announce this second COVID-19 related death and our thoughts are with the family at this time. Sadly, we believe that this will not be the last time that we are confronted with this kind of information," said Orange County Health Director, Quintana Stewart.

There are outbreaks of COVID-19 at two long-term care facilities in Orange County, occurring at PruittHealth – Carolina Point and Signature HealthCARE at Chapel Hill. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases.

Orange County currently has a total of 141 cases of COVID-19. The case count for each county is for laboratory confirmed cases linked to the individual's home county of residence. All positive PruittHealth and Signature HealthCARE cases may not be reflected in the overall Orange County case total. If a person tests positive for COVID-19 or passes away in a long-term care facility or hospital, their death is counted in the tally for their county of residence, not the county in which they are currently housed. For instance if someone passes away at UNC Hospitals from COVID-19 but their county of residence is Alamance County, their death will be reflected on the NC DHHS website for Alamance County.

The Health Department will provide a weekly summary of cases once a week going forward on Friday. The NC DHHS updates their COVID-19 case count dashboard daily at 11 a.m.

Read more about the First Death in Orange County (April 10th, 2020):
https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10509/First-COVID-19-Death-in-Orange-County-NC-April-10-2020

Read more about the Outbreaks of COVID-19 at Two Long-Term Care Facilities (April 8th, 2020):
http://www.orangecountync.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=489

Lower Your Risk

To lower the risk of spreading respiratory infections, including COVID-19, the Orange County Health Department encourages everyone to:

- Stay home as much as possible, except for essential travel;
- If you must go out in public, wear a cloth face covering;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Avoid contact with sick people;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;
- If you are experiencing symptoms, call your doctor;
- Practice social distancing. Maintain at least six feet of space between yourself and other individuals when out in public; and
- Avoid close contact with crowds of any size, and avoid any crowd of more than 10 people.

Reliable Information

For the latest information and guidance relating to Orange County's COVID-19 response, visit https://www.orangecountync.gov/Coronavirus

The phone line for questions about COVID-19 is 919-245-6111 and is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Spanish language and other languages are available.

To receive daily text updates on the crisis, please text OCNCHEALTH to 888-777. For Spanish speakers, text OCNCSALUD to 888-777.

You may also sign up for a twice weekly e-newsletter about the COVID-19 response via our website.

Please follow the Orange County Health Department on Facebook and Twitter.

NCDHHS' website https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-case-count-nc, will include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

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