



**County of Moore  
Health Department  
705 Pinehurst Avenue • P.O. Box 279  
Carthage, NC 28327**



**Robert R. Wittmann, MPH  
Director**

**Telephone: 910-947-3300  
Medical Records Fax: 910-947-1663  
Administration Fax: 910-947-5837**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: September 29th, 2020**

**CONTACT:** Matt Garner  
Public Information Officer  
910-947-4512  
[mgarner@moorecountync.gov](mailto:mgarner@moorecountync.gov)

**One New COVID-19 Outbreak and One New COVID-19 Cluster Identified in Moore**

The Moore County Health Department has been notified of confirmed positive COVID-19 test results for a total of six staff members and nineteen residents of Magnolia Gardens (594 Murray Hill Road, Southern Pines). In long-term care or congregate living settings, a COVID-19 outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed cases.

Testing conducted at Magnolia Gardens September 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> generated the facility's twenty-five COVID-19 positive test results. Further testing is planned for September 30<sup>th</sup>. Weekly testing for all residents and staff of the facility will continue until the conclusion of the outbreak. An outbreak is considered concluded if there is no evidence of transmission following a 28-day period.

Bi-weekly COVID-19 testing for all nursing home staff was mandated by Secretarial Order #2 beginning August 7<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the Order can be found here: <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/Secretarial-Order-2-Mandatory-Testing-for-Staff-in-Nursing-Homes.pdf>.

With the addition of Magnolia Gardens, Moore County's cumulative total of COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care and congregate living settings is now twelve since the pandemic began. Of the twelve total outbreaks Moore County has experienced, four have been declared concluded (Pinehurst Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, Fox Hollow, Seven Lakes Assisted Living and Memory Care, and Peak Resources Pinelake).

A COVID-19 cluster has also been identified in Moore County. The Moore County Health Department was notified of confirmed positive COVID-19 test results for one staff member and four residents of Crystal Lake Casaworks, a substance use rehabilitation facility located at 190 Camp Easter Road in Lakeview. A COVID-19 cluster is defined as a minimum of five laboratory confirmed cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period and plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) uses the term "cluster" as opposed to "outbreak" for settings like Crystal Lake Casaworks because it can be difficult to accurately determine how transmission occurred and whether it occurred within the setting or from within the broader community. Clusters are similar to

***"To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury."***  
**<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>**

**Environmental Health  
Telephone: 910-947-6283  
Fax: 910-947-5127**

**WIC  
Telephone: 910-947-3271  
Fax: 910-947-2460**

outbreaks in that they are considered concluded if there is no evidence of continued transmission within the setting following a 28-day period.

The COVID-19 cluster identified at Crystal Lake Casaworks is Moore County's third since the pandemic began. A cluster was also identified at Magic Years Childcare Center (635 East Forest St., Robbins) on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, another at Robbins Elementary School (268 Rushwood Rd, Robbins) on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Magic Years Childcare Center cluster has since been declared concluded. The Robbins Elementary School cluster remains ongoing with a total of six confirmed COVID-19 cases.

You can find more detailed information regarding ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care & congregate living facilities in Moore and other NC Counties by accessing a report published by NCDHHS at:

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/dashboard/Weekly-COVID19-Ongoing-Outbreaks.pdf>.

Additionally, you can find more detailed information regarding ongoing COVID-19 clusters in childcare, school, and other settings in Moore and other NC Counties by accessing a report published by NCDHHS at:

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/dashboard/Weekly-Ongoing-Clusters-in-Child-Care-and-School-Settings.pdf>

In total, there have been 1,682 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Moore County to date. Health Department staff are monitoring individuals who have tested positive and will follow up with anyone who is identified as a close contact. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines "close contact" as being within six feet for 10 minutes or more. To protect privacy, no further information about the individuals who have tested positive will be shared by the Health Department.

Moore County's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard can be found here:

<https://moorecounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/4c11e5bf79b64a6e9c8377d5129cc97c>

For more information about coronavirus and Moore County's response, please visit [www.moorecountync.gov/health](http://www.moorecountync.gov/health), find us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter (@mocohealth).

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