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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

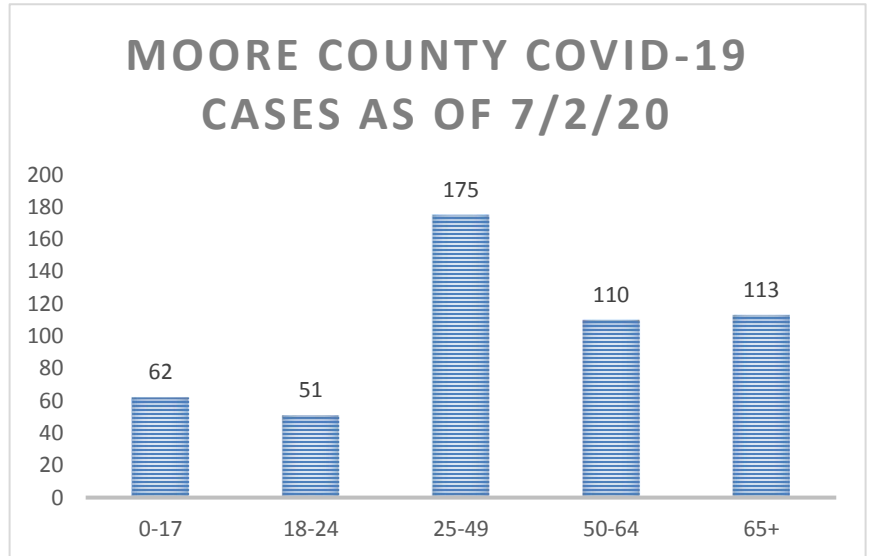
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**Moore County Health Department Urges Continued COVID-19 Vigilance Ahead of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend**

As positive COVID-19 case counts continue to rise nationally and across our State, the Moore County Health Department encourages everyone to remain steadfast in adhering to all mandated and recommended control measures for the virus. This is particularly important to be mindful of as we enter the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend when gatherings and travel are typically the norm.

For Moore County, COVID-19 cases for individuals in the 25-49 age range now make up the majority of cases (34.2%). The number of cases for those age 25-49 has more than doubled since May 22<sup>nd</sup>, when North Carolina entered phase two of reopening and restrictions were eased.



“Those who are in the 25-49 age group tend to be more socially mobile than others,” says Health Director Robert Wittmann. “They also tend to make up the bulk of the workforce in our service and hospitality industries, making it even more important for them to be vigilant when it comes to hygiene practices and social distancing.”

Executive Order #147, which extended Order #141’s “Safer at Home” restrictions and requires North Carolinians (with some exceptions) to wear face coverings in public when social distancing is not possible, took effect on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

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“Wearing a face covering in public consistently and correctly is one of the most effective protective measures we can take to help control the spread of COVID-19,” says Wittmann. “We can all do our part in helping turn the tide of new cases by wearing a face covering, practicing social distancing, and sustaining proper personal hygiene practices.”

An increase in new positive cases has been expected as testing has become more widely available and more people are eligible for testing. However, the Health Department warns that cases could potentially spike even further around holidays like July 4<sup>th</sup>, particularly if individuals don’t abide by gathering restrictions or if they don’t follow recommended prevention protocols.

As part of the Governor’s Phase two extension, some businesses like bars and gyms remain closed. Further, gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.

“We all look forward to celebrating our Nation’s independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>,” says Wittmann. “This July 4<sup>th</sup>, we have to be smart about how and where we celebrate so that we can protect ourselves and others.”

The Moore County Health Department continues to encourage everyone to “**Know Their W’s**” and exercise caution when out in public:

- **W**ear a cloth face covering if you will be around other people
- **W**ait six feet apart and avoid close contact
- **W**ash your hands often for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer

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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