

From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 9:59 PM
To: Town Email Users
Subject: Town Manager's COVID Message 12-09-20

Hello Everyone,

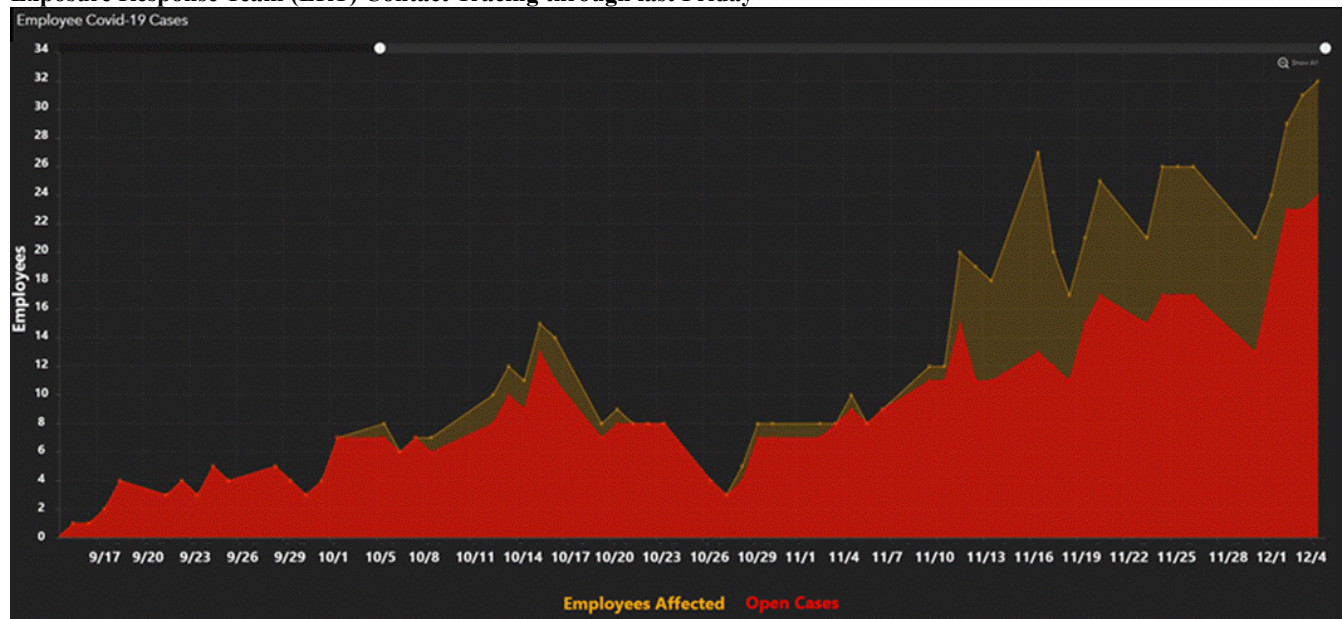
I wish I could provide a positive update to you on current COVID situation but unfortunately I cannot. The situation around the state and the country is dire, and we need your help in responding to the rise in cases.

Statewide coronavirus numbers are drastically on the rise:

- 6,495 new cases today (third record day in the last five days) - the numbers were in the 3,000s less than a month ago
- 11.7% positive rate - Thankfully, Orange County has remained well below 5%
- 2,440 hospitalizations (seventh-consecutive record-setting day)

Employee numbers are following a smaller but similar trend.

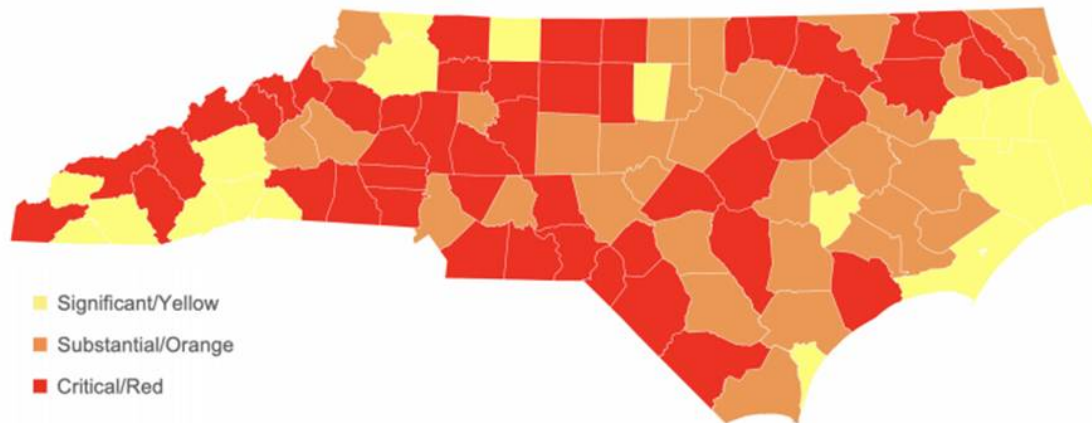
Exposure Response Team (ERT) Contact Tracing through last Friday



The silver lining for us is that spread between employees does not appear to be happening or is extremely limited. That means the policies we have in place and the hard work you are doing to adhere to them appears to be working. I am urging you to stick with those practices while on the job. And, any time you can take the three Ws you've gotten used to at work into your life outside of work, it will continue to go a long way in protecting you and your colleagues.

The State's County Alert System is a critical tool to keep in mind. Most Town employees do not live in Chapel Hill or even Orange County. Please take a serious look at your county's numbers. The Department of Health and Human Services is warning everyone in red and orange counties to greatly limit your trips outside your home (as in to stores and restaurants) because community spread is widespread.

NC Counties by Tier: Data from November 21 through December 4, 2020



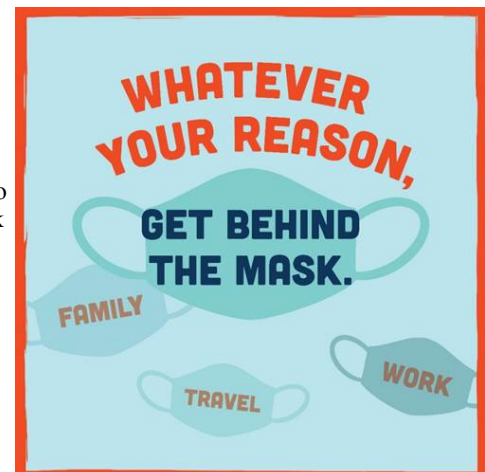
There is a lot of talk about vaccines on the horizon, and we have good reason to be optimistic. However we need to remain patient as the distribution of the vaccine will take time, going well into next year. Even after the vaccine is distributed, we will need to continue to adhere to public health practices until officials tell us the threat is behind us.

We have made it nearly nine months since we first changed the way we live and work during the pandemic. As a state and nation we have lost far too many people in that time, though. You have proven your resilience, and I am proud of what we have all accomplished. Remember, relief is on its way, and we need to protect one another in the meantime. Small sacrifices now will save lives.

As always, if you need help, don't hesitate to reach out.

Resources

- Submit employee questions and concerns to the Office of Risk Management at 919-969- 5035, rallen@townofchapelhill.org
- Contact the Town's Wellness Clinic: 919-968-2796, <https://chapelhillwellnessatwork.org/>.
 - Please call first
 - Please note: the Town's Wellness Clinic does not have the capability to test for coronavirus; the staff can recommend whether you should seek additional medical guidance
- Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plan provides video diagnosis options. Visit <https://member.carefirst.com/members/health-wellness/video-visit.page>.
- Contact the Ombuds at ombuds@townofchapelhill.org or 919-265-0806
- If you need to talk with someone about personal problems and/or work-related problems that may impact your job performance, health, mental and emotional well-being, call 1-800-326-3864 or visit bhsonline.com.



All the Best,
Maurice

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