

05-13-2020 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

ITEM: Update on Town Efforts to Respond to the COVID-19 Crisis

[Here is the link¹](#) to the NC DHHS Weekly COVID-19 Report form that provides an analysis of important metrics as well as key findings for the week ending May 2nd.

Council Question:

How will we message information to the community about the reporting methods in assisted living facilities?

Staff Response:

Orange County Health Department (OCHD) is responsible for all messaging regarding reporting of COVID-19 cases and fatalities.

Council Question:

Which county's Health Department is taking responsibility for guiding Pruitt?

Staff Response:

OCHD is the lead agency on all public health coordination with Pruitt. Although OCHD is taking lead, not all fatalities associated with Pruitt will be assigned to Orange County as this metric will be recorded based on county of residence.

Council Question:

Can you provide a brief overview of steps the strike teams are taking in these facilities to guide staff, monitor, test cases, etc.?

Staff Response:

Information about the Orange County Health Department Strike Team can be found at <https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10783/Orange-County-NC-Ready-to-Strike-Back-at-Covid-19-April-21-2020>.

¹ <https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/covid-19/Weekly-COVID19-Surveillance.pdf>

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Responses to Council Questions

Council Question:

Can we have an overview of where we are with testing capabilities in the County? What is our current testing capacity? What is our goal?

Staff Response:

Locally in Orange County, we are testing between 100 to 300 samples a day and have the capacity to test up to 1,000. The main constraint to increasing testing capacity centers around the ability to secure critical testing components (swabs, cartridges, etc.).

There is a statewide taskforce dedicated to expanding testing capabilities. The local health departments have been charged with testing 5% of the community population per month. While we are not yet at this capacity, healthcare partners are working to finalize new testing instruments that will come on board in June and July that will increase testing capacity.

In addition, the UNC System is planning an initiative to implement mobile testing for high-risk underserved populations. The System will be reaching out to connect with the local health departments to identify needs.