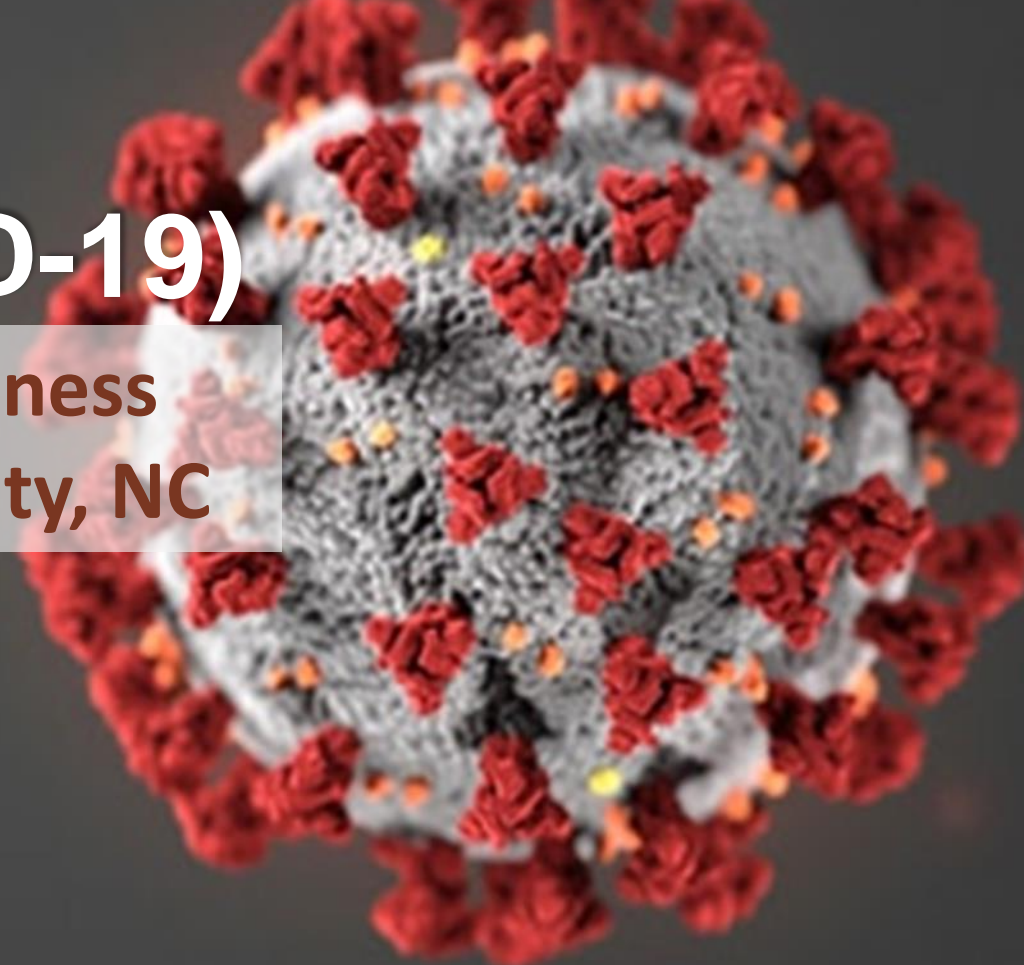


# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## Overview of Public Health Preparedness and Response In Mecklenburg County, NC



**Presented by:**

Gibbie Harris, MSPH, BSN

Mecklenburg County Public Health Director

**Date: April 2, 2020**



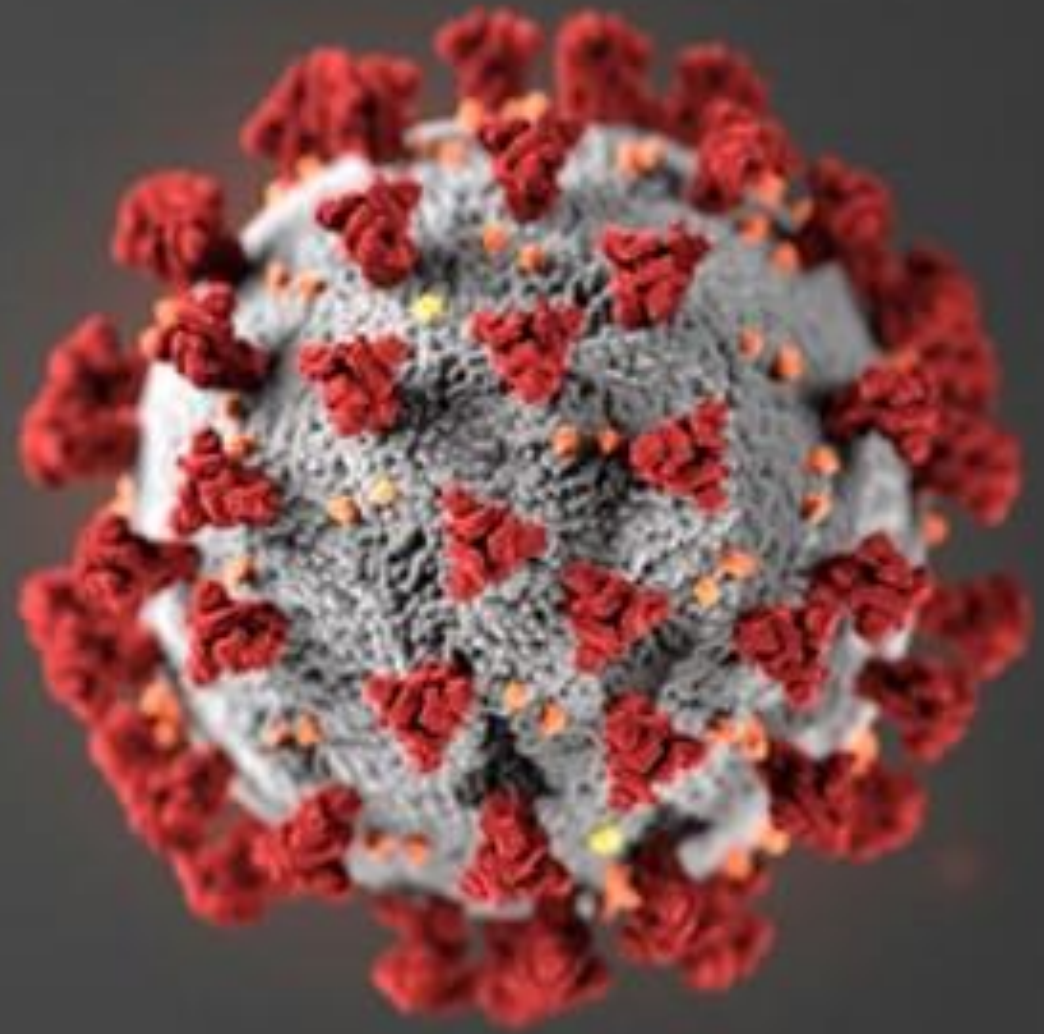
**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
North Carolina  
Public Health

# Topic Highlights

- COVID-19 in Mecklenburg: Tracking the Numbers
- Current Public Health/County Preparedness and Response
- What Do We Need?



# COVID-19 Cases: Tracking the Numbers



*Data presented for COVID-19 cases reported to  
Mecklenburg County Health Department as of March 28, 2020*

# Brief Timeline of Events

USA

JANUARY 21, 2020

1st positive test of  
novel coronavirus  
in US

1<sup>st</sup> COVID-19 case  
identified in NC

MARCH 3, 2020

NC

MECK

MARCH 11, 2020

1<sup>st</sup> COVID-19 case  
identified in  
Mecklenburg

Source: CDC, NC DHHS and Mecklenburg County Health Department

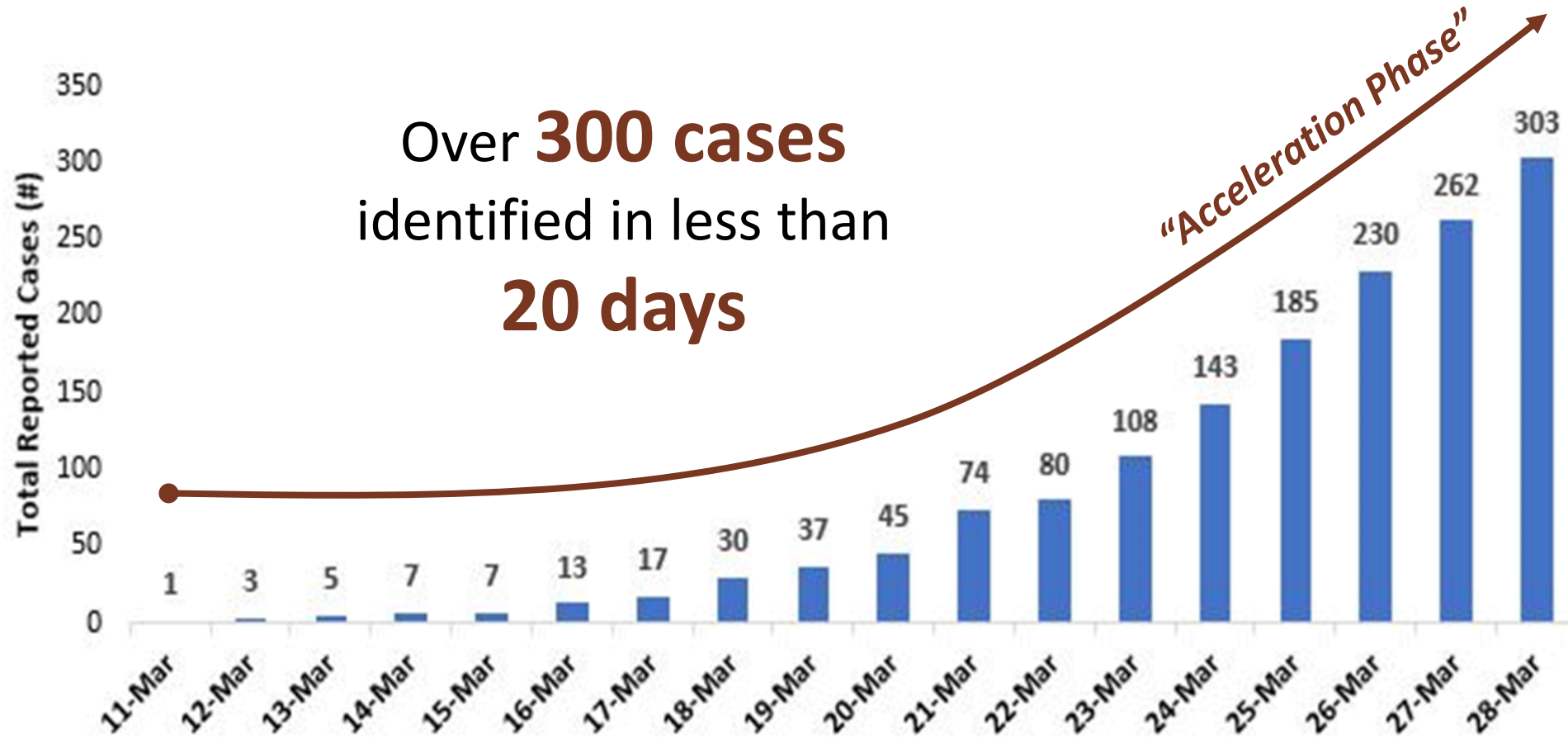


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# COVID-19 Cases Increased Rapidly in the County

Total COVID-19  
Cases Reported  
to MCHD by Date

As of March 28, 2020



Source: Mecklenburg County Health Department



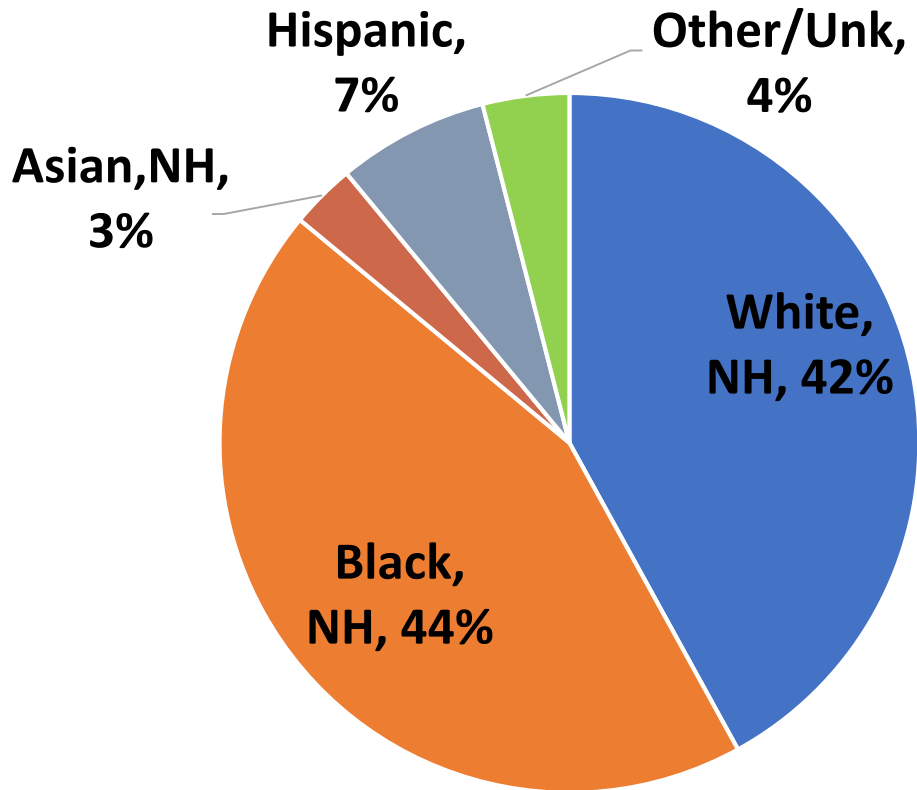
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# Demographic Distribution of COVID-19 Cases

## By Race/Ethnicity



**Total Cases: 300+**

Source: Mecklenburg County Health Department

## By Gender

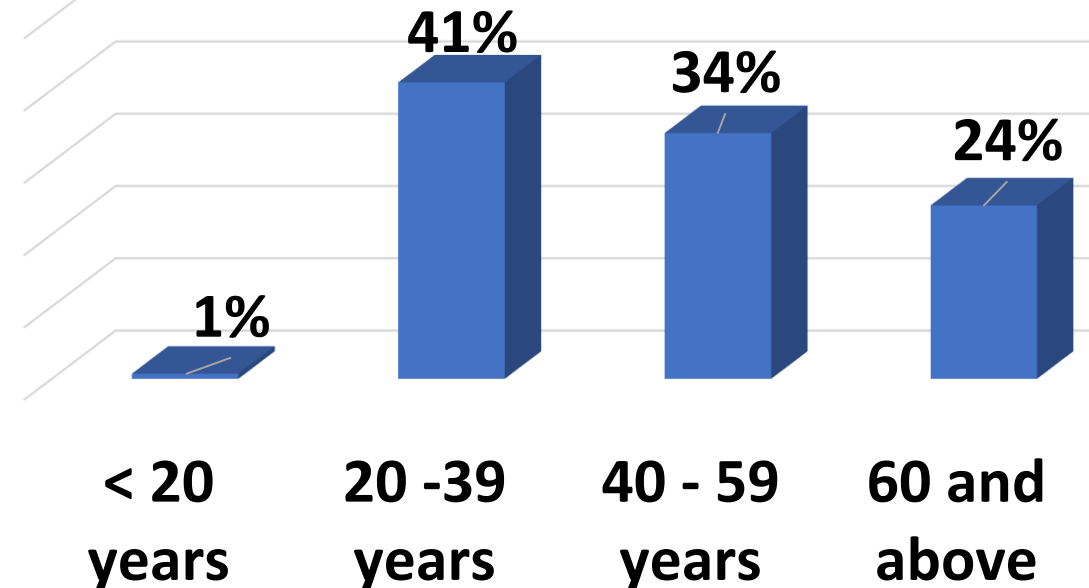


**49%**



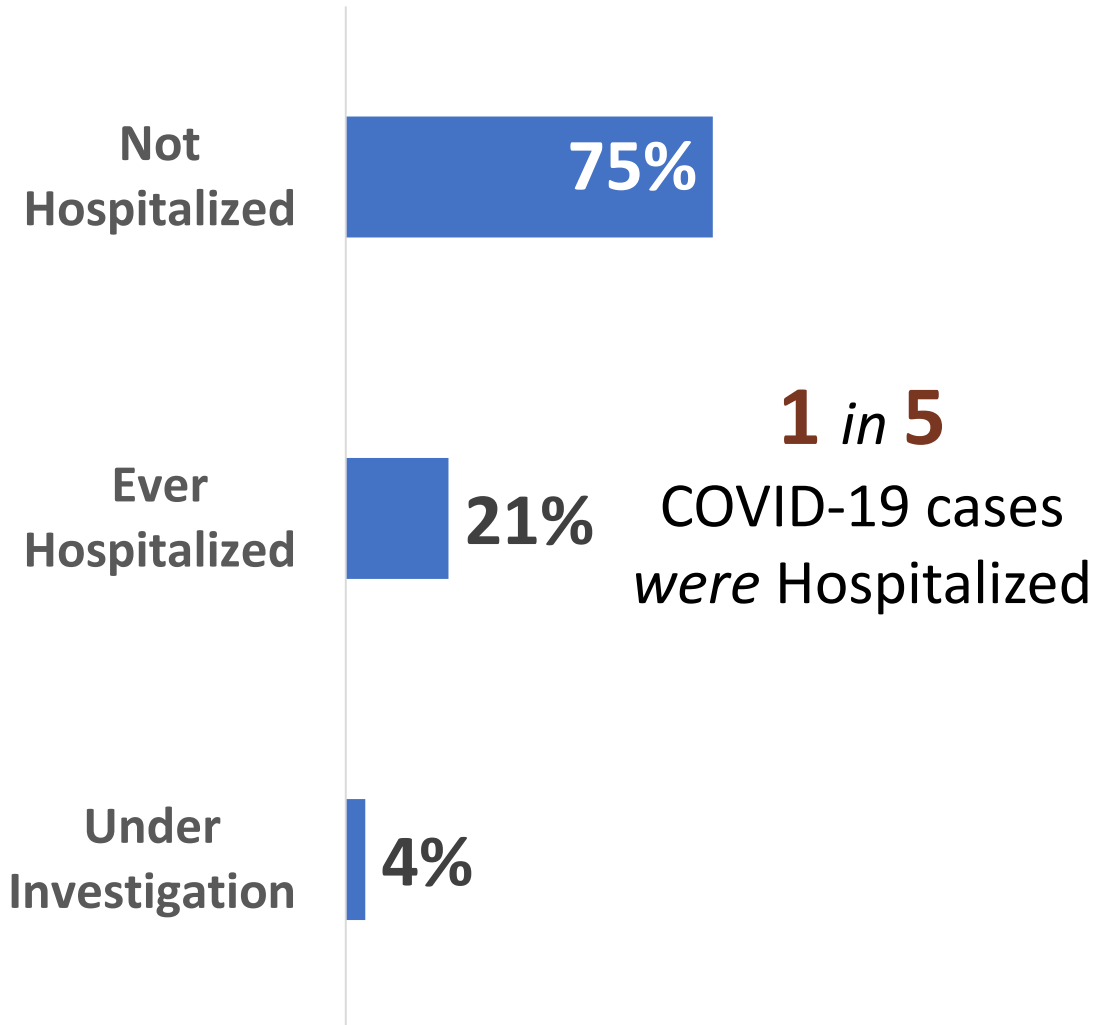
**51%**

## By Age



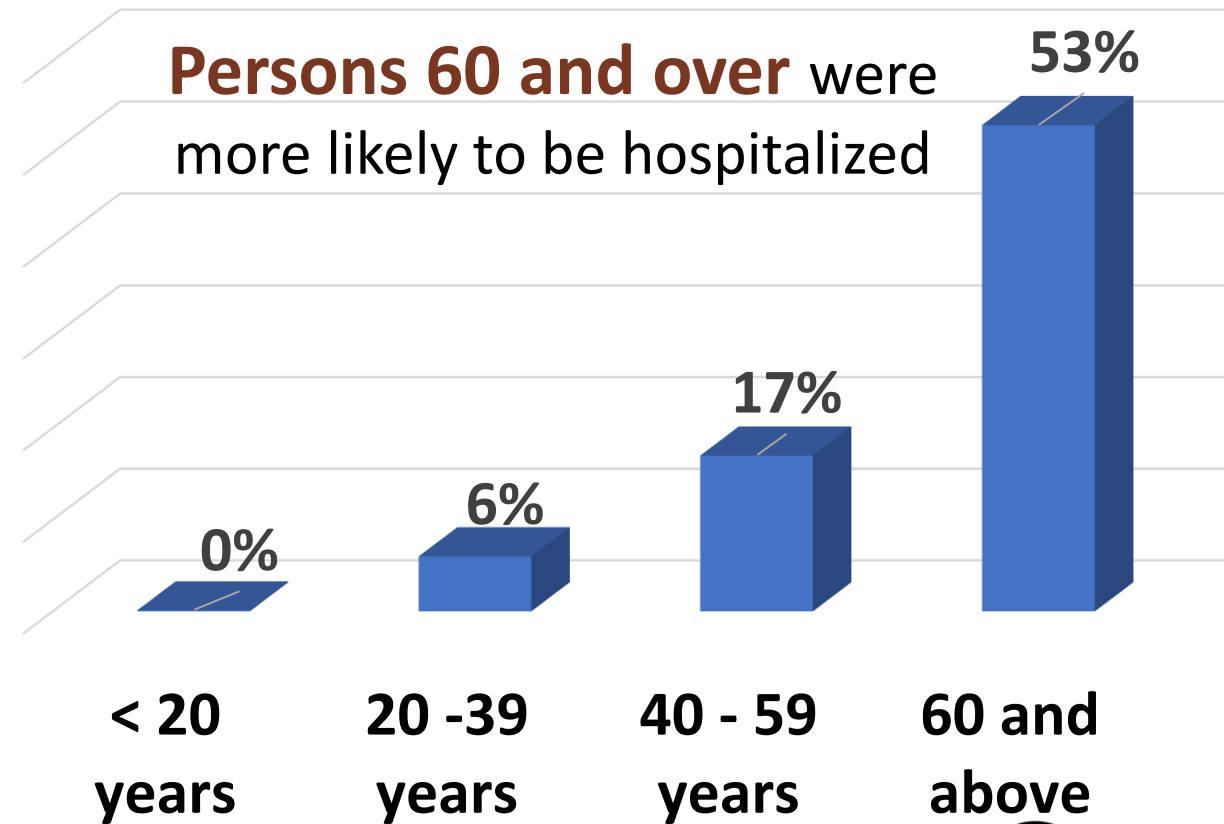
# Hospitalizations for COVID-19 Cases

## Hospitalization for COVID-19 Cases (as of March 28, 2020) Mecklenburg County, NC



Source: Mecklenburg County Health Department

## Hospitalization Rates by Age Group among COVID-19 Cases Reported to MCPH



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# MCHD Current Public Health Response

## *Responding to an Outbreak*

that threatens the health of over

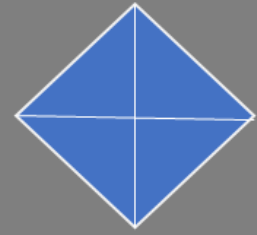
**1.1 Million Residents**

requires a multilayered approach

Case  
Investigation



Mitigation  
Strategies



Collaborations

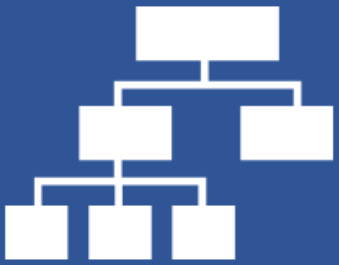


Public Health  
Messaging



# MCHD Current Public Health Response

## Case Investigation

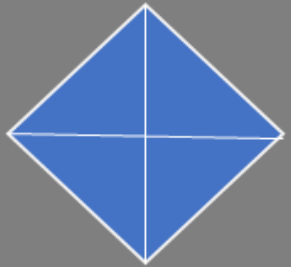


- Staffing: School nurses trained to support/conduct case investigations
- Implementing frequent updates to guidance on case investigation from NC DHHS and CDC
- Triaging cases for high-risk community exposures (e.g. first responders, health care providers, congregate living, etc.)



# MCHD Current Public Health Response

## Mitigation Strategies



- Releasing local guidance to businesses, educational institutions, and congregate settings
- Serving as ongoing resource to entire community to address questions/concerns
- Providing local hotline for symptomatic individuals, medical providers, general population, media, community service providers, homeless service providers
- Opened emergency shelter and quarantine and isolation facilities



# Mecklenburg County Response to Public Health Pandemic

## Collaborations



- Issued State of Emergency – March 12, 2020
- Issued Local Stay at Home Order – March 26, 2020
  - Restricting large gatherings to no more 10
  - Restricting non-essential businesses



**STAY HOME,  
SAVE LIVES**

We all need to do our part to slow  
the spread of COVID-19.

Protect your family, protect your neighbors,  
protect North Carolina.

\* Supported by Mecklenburg County Commissioners, Charlotte City Council and all seven Town governing bodies



MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
North Carolina  
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# MCHD Current Public Health Response

## Collaborations



- Activated Emergency Operations Center:  
March 11, 2020
  - Public Health (Incident Command)
  - Emergency Management
  - Police, Fire and MEDIC
  - Healthcare Systems
  - Human Services
  - Community Partners



# MCHD Current Public Health Response

## Public Health Messaging



- All in conjunction with the Joint Information Center:
  - Frequent press conferences/media availability
  - Routine website and social media updates
  - Bi-weekly releases of detailed local data





# How Bad Could This Get?

26 days until peak resource use on  
April 27, 2020

**Beds Needed**  
5,111 beds

**ICU Beds Needed**  
767 beds

Resources needed for COVID patients on peak date

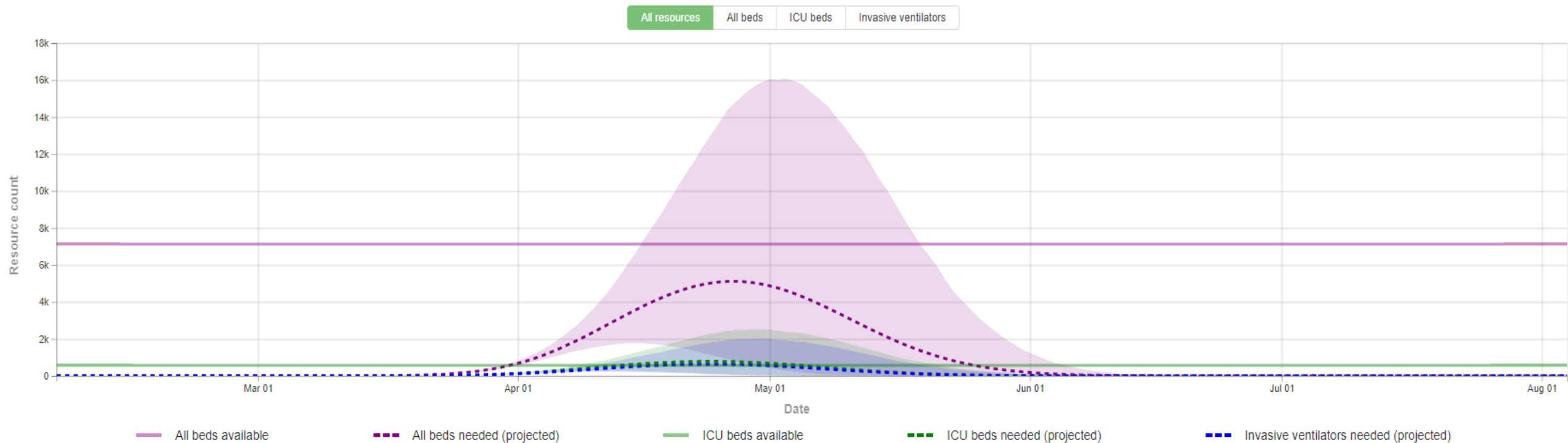
**Beds Available**  
7,125 beds

**ICU Beds Needed**  
567 beds

**Ventilators Needed:** 613 ventilators

**Beds Shortage**  
0 beds

**ICU Beds Shortage**  
200 beds



# COVID-19 Response: Resources Needed

- Funding:
  - Workforce
  - Hospital surge capacity
  - Mass shelter and quarantine facilities
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Ventilators



# Questions

