

Stay-in-Home Order Needed to Expedite Returning Mecklenburg County to Good Health and Prosperity

Action requested to help protect most vulnerable and to preserve necessary supplies for healthcare systems

March 23, 2020

Dena R. Diorio
Mecklenburg County Manager
Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center
600 East 4th Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

County Manager Diorio:

On behalf of the entire workforces of Atrium Health and Novant Health, we would like to thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. Preparedness and a willingness to be bold are essential in Mecklenburg County's efforts to combat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and its effects on our people, our community and our economy.


As leaders of the leading healthcare systems in this region, we are writing today to formally request immediate action to **issue a county-wide stay-in-home order**. The leaders of some of our nation's most populated areas have taken this decisive action, in some cases only after COVID-19 had negatively affected significantly large numbers within their population, and perhaps too late to significantly impact the spread of this pandemic. Our predictive models show that **we have hours, not days, to help flatten the curve** in a way that does not overwhelm critical service. Each hour that passes, more and more residents are coming into contact with others, and the virus continues to spread rapidly. Mecklenburg County has a chance to curb the spread of COVID-19 by taking action now.

We care deeply about the safety of our patients, team members and the communities we serve. A stay-in-home order is in the best interests of protecting the health and well-being of our communities and our healthcare workers during this pandemic. Our healthcare workers are on the front lines doing everything possible to help treat and defeat this virus. They need your support to help protect those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 and to preserve the necessary supplies each healthcare system requires to best care for patients during this pandemic.

We recognize that such an action will be followed by a series of possible unintended consequences, through its effects on the workforce and the economy as a whole. We have a proud history of supporting our communities and especially those who are underserved. We are committed to working with the county and our business community leaders once this state of emergency has passed to help address the needs of communities and their most vulnerable citizens and to help restore Mecklenburg County to good health and prosperity.

We appreciate your consideration of this action and the lives it will ultimately save. Thank you for your courageous leadership during these unprecedented times and for continually working in collaboration with our health systems.

Sincerely,



Eugene A. Woods
President and CEO
Atrium Health



Carl S. Armato
President and CEO
Novant Health