

Good afternoon. I am Wendy Jacobs, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, and I am here to speak to our community about Durham County's response to the Covid-19 epidemic and the county wide Stay At Home Order that I have signed today and will go into effect tomorrow, Sunday, March 29 at 5:00 pm. This order is largely an extension of City's order that went into effect on Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm. This order makes just a few revisions to that order and extends it to the entire county, including RTP, Treyburn Corporate Park and the unincorporated areas of Durham County. We have worked together closely with the City on this. The Mayor has consented to these modifications; therefore, this order will be in effect for all of Durham County, including the incorporated areas of the City.

I first want to say thank you to Governor Cooper for announcing a state- wide Stay -At -Home order yesterday that will go into effect on Monday, March 30 at 5:00 p.m. Although we are one hundred individual counties, we are one state and we must address this crisis in a coordinated and comprehensive way. What happens in one county does impact another. We know we have limited health resources. As NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen stated yesterday, it is critical that we do all that we can to contain the spread of this virus so we do not overwhelm our health system to ensure critical care will be available to those who need it most. That is why it is so important that we fight this together as one community and one state.

I want to say to our community, yes, we are all facing the stark reality together of living in unprecedented times. Today, there are now 621,096 Coronavirus cases in the world, more than half a billion people, and 28,661 people have died. Thursday, the United State became the country leading the world in cases. We now have 105,019 people who are known to have been infected with coronavirus, with 1,717 deaths. We have more cases of infection than China, Italy or any other country. As the third most populated country in the world, we have a vast pool of people who can be infected. Here in North Carolina today we have 763 positive cases of Coronavirus. Four people have died from this virus. About a week ago on March 20 we had 188 cases and a week before that on March 13, we had 19 cases in North Carolina. Here in Durham County we are now up to 103 cases as of yesterday, with at least 7 confirmed cases of community transmission, which means we cannot identify exactly how the person became infected. This is

evidence that the virus is spreading in our community. About a week ago on March 20, there were 39 positive cases of coronavirus in Durham County. All these numbers tell us the same story. This virus is spreading rapidly, and we must do all we can to contain the spread of the virus now.

The good news is that we know what we need to do, and it is within our control. And that is to Stay -At Home- and to practice safe sanitation practices so we can stop the virus from spreading from one person to another. We have seen this strategy work in other countries and in other parts of the United States and we know this works. In those places where people really follow Stay at Home orders, after at a least a two-week period, we begin to see the number of new cases decline. We see the successful implementation of strategies to identify people who are sick, make sure infected people stay away from others, including those in their own household as they recover. We see the resulting reduction of stress on health care systems so that health care providers have the equipment they need to keep themselves, their families and their patients safe and so that critical care resources are available for those who need them to get better.

The Durham County Stay at Home Order strongly emphasizes this. I want to go over the county wide order and focus on how it builds on the city's order. Again, to be clear, this order is largely just an extension of the order that Mayor Schewel implemented on Thursday, March 26. We were not able to move forward together at that time in part because the Durham County Board of Commissioners needed to approve revisions to the County Emergency Ordinance. These revisions were approved during a Special Meeting yesterday. I will clarify the modifications that are being made in the County Stay at Home Order:

- 1) The Durham County Stay at Home order extends to the geographic limits of Durham County and by consent of the Mayor, within the corporate limits of the City of Durham.
- 2) I encourage everyone to read this order very carefully. A careful reading will hopefully answer most questions. We have included a link to the March 19, 2020 CISA list – the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency list- issued by the Federal Government that gives very clear guidelines about protected activities and workers. We have also included a printout of

this eleven-page document which gives very detailed guidance to all our companies. This should give adequate guidance to our research and manufacturing companies and other businesses located in RTP and Treyburn Corporate Park. I encourage all our businesses to please look at this list very carefully because this should answer many of your questions.

- 3) I encourage everyone to pay close attention to Provision D on Social Distancing and Sanitation Requirements. I believe this Provision is what is most important. This is really the heart of the Stay at Home Order. We have strengthened the original Provision D to include Sanitation requirements in addition to Social Distancing and I will review each part of this Provision:

Social Distancing and Sanitation Requirements. Any person who needs to leave their place of residence, and all businesses permitted to remain open, shall at all time reasonably comply with the following practices and require compliance by their employees, patrons, and visitors. For purpose of this Proclamation, social distancing and sanitation practices shall include, to the extent possible:

1) Employers shall perform temperature checks of their employees when they report to work and send home anyone with a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit:

2) Maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals:

3) Washing hands with soap and water (especially if hands are soiled) for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer.

4) Covering coughs or sneezes (into sleeve, elbow or tissue, not hands);

5) Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces:

6) Not permitting the sharing the tools, instruments, or other devices, in workspaces and recreational activities unless they have been cleaned in between users: and

7) No shaking hands.

All part of the Durham County order refers back to Provision D. In other words, we are asking you, as an individual and as an employer, even within activities that are considered essential and allowable, to follow the requirements for Social Distancing and Sanitation.

We know that not everyone will have adequate access to thermometers but please do the best you can. We have seen in other countries, who have really been able to turn the tide on the spread of this virus, that monitoring temperatures can really make a difference in detecting when someone may be in the early stages of the virus, contagious and needs to self-isolate and self-quarantine at home.

Here in Durham County Government, our (Emergency Operations Center) EOC and Public Health staff are doing temperature screenings with infrared thermometers for all employees and residents coming into the Human Services Complex. This is also being done by the Office of the Sheriff at the Detention Center. The City of Durham is asking their Sanitation staff to self-check with their own personal digital thermometers daily if possible. So, we ask every employer and every employee who is still going to work, to take responsibility for this and to implement this practice as best you can. Our EOC has ordered additional supplies of infrared thermometers and when they arrive, they will be deployed strategically into the community.

In addition, I want to emphasize the section about sharing of tools and equipment of any kind, this includes recreational equipment. They must be sanitized and any work that can not be done without 6 feet of social distancing should not be done. We want to keep our construction workers, our utility workers, and all our essential workers safe on the job. We do not want to put anyone at risk or the families that they come home to each night.

- 4) The second areas of revision are in Provision E Limitations on Business Operations, Section r. Professional Services and Section s. Childcare Facilities. We know that this Stay at Home order will be modified over time as we better understand needs in our community and changing conditions. In Section r. related to real estate service a parentheses has been added: (These activities may only be conducted by a single individual and are

restricted to the following activities connected with closing sales, (i)post offer inspections, (ii) appraisal, (iii)surveys, (iv) final walk throughs and (v) title searches. In person showings and open houses are prohibited).

These revisions were added in response to information provided by the real estate community that in addition to title searches and appraisals, inspections, surveys and final walk throughs are vital activities for closings already in process and can be safely conducted by one person. I do want to emphasize that we encourage our realtor community to take advantage of opportunities for virtual or Facebook live events for showings of all properties.

In section s. Childcare Facilities. We have added further guidelines for the safety of operations of this important and ongoing need for people in our community. This section reads:

For specific employees exempted by this Order, as well as Childcare facilities providing services that enable first responders, healthcare workers, public health, HHS staff and others responding to COVID-19. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following conditions:

- i. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups (“stable” means that the same person of children and staff are in the same group each day);
- ii. Children shall not change form one group to another:
- iii. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other; and
- iv. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

I recognize this County Stay At Home order may create some confusion with the implementation of the Governor’s Stay at Home so I want to emphasize a few things. First, I am thrilled that the Governor has issued his order. But he has made it clear that he respects local city and county governments to do what they need

to do to address the specific needs and conditions in their communities. His order states that “To that end, nothing herein is intended to limit or prohibit counties and cities in North Carolina from enacting ordinances and issuing state of emergency declarations which impose greater restrictions or prohibitions to the extent authorized under North Carolina law”. The Durham City and County order complies with everything that is in the Governor’s Order but is more restrictive or more descriptive in certain areas. Therefore, this order will have precedence.

I also ask everyone to please read the Durham County Stay at Home carefully and use good judgement. There is a FAQ on the city’s website that will hopefully answer most questions and in the coming week city and county staff will offer additional ways to ask for clarification and answer remaining questions.

I also want to emphasize the many great things happening in our community. I know these are difficult, scary and stressful times for everyone. We are all being impacted by this pandemic. Everyone on our planet. Here in Durham, City government, County government and Durham Public Schools are working hand in hand. I am in daily virtual meetings with our Mayor Steve Schewel, and School Board Chair Mike Lee. The City and County Managers, the Superintendent, all levels of city and county staff and departments are working together closely every day as actions and decisions are made to adjust to changing conditions and needs in our community.

The amount of collaboration and communication that is happening is incredible. Our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff are working around the clock led by the awesome Leslie O’Connor . Our Public Health Director Rod Jenkins and his staff are doing a fantastic job doing the important work of contact tracing...trying to trace the contacts of everyone person who tests positive in our community to help limit the spread. An EOC group is up and running to address the needs of our homeless residents and there is another team working on food distribution. The needs of the most vulnerable in our community will always be front and center in Durham County.

The response from our community has been also been incredible. From neighbors helping neighbors through the Mutual Aid efforts to the Next-Door listservs. There are donor funds to help our artists, hospitality workers and other displaced workers, DPS families and our seniors and others needing food. DDI and the Chamber are working hard to support our local businesses. DSS is continuing to serve our community in a remote capacity to make sure people can apply for Food and Nutrition benefits and Medicaid. Durham Public Schools is conducting a herculean effort delivering food, information and curriculum materials to 67 sites each day. And these efforts are being supplemented by groups like Bull City Schools, Love and Nourish, End Hunger Durham and Meals on Wheels

. And no surprise that people are innovating. Our local restaurants and food trucks are coming up with new ways to provide their service. Please support them in any way you can. Other groups are finding ways to make plastic shields with 3-D printers, and folks are sewing masks at home. Durham based companies are working on new drugs, test kits and ways to build ventilators. People are offering online exercise classes and sharing their music and other talents. I just participated in an online poetry exchange. There is so much that we can do.

If you are able to help others, please find ways to help. If you have the resources, donate money, order online or delivery from our local businesses. Call someone who in your neighborhood, church or congregation that you think may need help just to support and check in on them. We can all do something. We know so many people do need help. And I want you to know that we are here for you. Thanks to the passage of the Federal aid package approved yesterday more resources will be coming into our community soon. If you need help with finances, food, housing, mental or physical health, anything, there are lots of places to turn. You can call 211. This hotline is run by the United Way and they can connect you with all kinds of resources. Here in Durham you can call our public health hotline number 919-635-8150. You can also email dcocovidquestions@gmail.com. For help with any social service needs please call 919-560-8000. And please check the city, county and DPS websites for lists of more resources.

DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen challenged us all yesterday to take control. She challenged each of us to try to improve our own health and address underlying

health conditions and to try to quit smoking. Telemedicine is great and we are fortunate to have this with Lincoln community health center and Duke Health system if you need help with this. We can get outside and exercise every day. It's a beautiful spring. We can try to eat healthy, get enough sleep and do what we can to reduce our stress. For families struggling to work from home, juggle the needs of their children and continue schoolwork, there is good advice around establishing a set routine each day. For those who are Essential service providers, especially our health care workers, who are worried about your own personal safety and that of the people you live with, it is especially important to follow the guidelines in Provision D. Social Distancing and Sanitation Requirements in this order.

We can do this Durham. Many of us have already been following Stay At home guidelines for the past 2 weeks. We can surely do this in earnest for the next 30 days. This is our chance now to slow the spread of the virus, stop person to person contact as much as we possibly can over the next 30 days. If we are all dedicated ourselves to this and really follow Provision D, perhaps we can all get back to work and school sooner rather than later.

But at the end of the day. This is all about you. This is all about individual responsibility. We need you, everyone in our community to practice social distancing and proper hygiene practices. We need every employer, every business, including those that are considered essential and protected, to follow the practices in Provision D in earnest if we are going to stop the spread of this virus, flatten the curve and not overwhelm our health care system. This will not work without you.

This means each of us committing to not bend the rules or cheat. For the public health, safety and well-being of ourselves, those we live with and everyone in our entire community. This Stay at Home order will not work if this happens. As we heard yesterday, Stay at Home, Means Save a Life. The County Stay at Home order, like the Governor's, currently allows gatherings of 10 people or less. But please do not gather with others unless you must such as for work or for a funeral. And when you do, please follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines. The Wake County order does not allow gatherings of ANY size and in Britain,

gatherings are limited to two people. We may need to modify this part of the order in the days ahead if we see that our efforts are not being effective in slowing the spread of the virus in our community.

Again, I want to reiterate and say as strongly as I can, this is our collective responsibility to protect and preserve the safety, health and well-being of everyone in our community. I can not say it any better than Secretary Cohen did yesterday to our Beloved Bull City: “We can do this. We are Strong. We are in this Together”. Stay Home and Practice Safe Sanitation But Let’s Stay Connected to Each Other. We can do this!!!