



## ***Pamlico County Health Department***

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### **For Immediate Release**

Date: November 20, 2020

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On November 20, 2020, the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board (“NCLHDA”) assigned a status of “Unaccredited” to the Pamlico County Health Department. Pamlico County Health Director, Scott Lenhart, and Pamlico County Attorney, David Baxter, attended the NCLHDA meeting during which Mr. Lenhart and Mr. Baxter requested that the NCLHDA grant a twelve-month extension of Pamlico County Health Department’s accreditation status due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The twelve-month extension request was based on Governor Cooper’s Executive Order, EO 119, which allows the NCLHDA to waive the accreditation scheduling requirements and grant the extension to provide necessary relief for local health departments responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NCLHDA did not grant the waiver and extension and voted to assign an “Unaccredited” status to Pamlico County Health Department. Pamlico County vehemently disagrees with the NCLHDA’s determination and is currently reviewing all legal avenues for challenging this decision. At the same time, Pamlico County Health Department is working very hard to complete the necessary requirements to regain an “Accredited” status as soon as possible.

What does this mean for Pamlico County Health Department until it can regain an “Accredited” status?

- EO 139 allowed the Secretary of NC DHHS to waive enforcement requirements that would have removed public health funding for health departments that lose accreditation during the COVID-19 pandemic. That waiver occurred on June 5, 2020. Therefore, Pamlico County Health Department will continue to receive public health funding up to 60 days after the expiration of the State of Emergency.
- Pamlico County Health Department will still provide the same services it provided prior to receiving an “Unaccredited” status.
- Pamlico County Health Department will still be coordinating Pamlico County’s COVID-19 response, including track and trace efforts and vaccine coordination when the time comes.

Pamlico County Health Department is tentatively scheduled for a reaccreditation site visit in January 2021. If you have any questions concerning services, please contact Health Director Scott Lenhart at 252-745-5111.

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