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PRESS RELEASE Contact: Eddie Settle Chairman, Wilkes County Board of Commissioners  
May 15, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilkes County would like to provide citizens an update on the recent spike of cases in our County. Wilkes currently has 286 COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases with a majority linked to the Tyson Foods outbreak, however, not all of them are. We currently have 9 hospitalized and 205 that has recovered as of this morning. Tyson Foods announced yesterday they are temporarily limiting operations at their Wilkesboro plant to carry out additional deep cleaning. Their announcement also stated they will share verified test results once complete data is available. Wilkes does expect the case count to increase based on the testing at Tyson. The Health Department will start testing at Rose Glen Village today and expect to test approximately 100 staff and residents. Wilkes County Health Department is working closely with Tyson and all the facilities to provide them with the most up to date CDC guidance available and they are also working diligently on tracing, testing, and educating citizens of Wilkes. You can sign up for notifications from the Wilkes County Health Department for case count and other COVID-19 updates on the Wilkes County Webpage [www.wilkescounty.net](http://www.wilkescounty.net). The Wilkes County Office Building is currently open and has remained so during the pandemic and is here to serve the citizens of Wilkes.

The State of North Carolina and Wilkes County Health Department are working to support Walmart as they begin community testing at the Wilkes County Walmart located on Hwy. 421, beginning Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Screening and appointment details for testing are available on our website. We would like to remind the public to wash your hands, cover your cough, and maintain social distancing and continue to follow the recommended guidelines from the CDC and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Your cooperation in this regard is important as we are completing week one of Phase I and easing certain restrictions to help revive the economy while protecting public health.

Below is the latest demographics for cases in Wilkes:

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Male	58%	0 to 25	14%
Female	40%	26 to 50	47%
Unknown	2%	51 and older	36%
		Unknown	3%

<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Mode of Transmission</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
28659	41%	Community Transmission	15%
28697	28%	Close Contact	85%
28651	8%		
28624	1%		
28670	1%		
28654	5%		
Unknown	2%		
28649	< 1%		
28669	2%		
28635	2%		
28685	2%		
28606	3%		
28665	2%		
28621	< 1%		
28683	< 1%		