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PRESS RELEASE Contact: Eddie Settle Chairman, Wilkes County Board of Commissioners
May 8, 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 194 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 97 that has recovered as of this morning. The Wilkes County Health Department went onsite at Tyson to conduct 200 COVID-19 tests. They had 39 positive tests out of the 200 which is 19%. Tyson Foods announced they have teamed up with Matrix Medical Network to provide healthcare services at many of their facilities in a continued effort to help their frontline workers. Tyson is currently conducting onsite testing that should be completed by Saturday. We do expect the case count to increase based on the onsite testing. Wilkes County Health Department is working closely with Tyson and all 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. 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, more details to follow. We would like to remind the public to use caution and follow 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 move into 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	56%	0 to 25	13%
Female	41%	26 to 50	46%
Unknown	3%	51 and older	37%
		Unknown	4%

<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Mode of Transmission</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
28659	41%	28649	1%
28697	27%	28669	3%
28651	9%	28685	2%
28624	1%	28606	4%
28670	2%	28665	1%
28654	4%	28683	1%
Unknown	4%		

		Community Transmission	14%
		Close Contact	86%