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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Third Emergency Medical Services employee tests positive for COVID-19

Patient in isolation at home; Commissioners continue to encourage citizens to take precautions

WINDSOR, N.C. – County Manager Juan Vaughan, II has confirmed a third Emergency Medical Services employee has tested positive for the novel coronavirus also known as COVID-19.

The employee was considered high risk for exposure due to their job duties, and is doing well in isolation at home. The employee has not completed routine work duties since July 23rd, and began exhibiting symptoms of illness on July 26th.

Reported symptoms include intermittent, low grade fevers as well as gastrointestinal issues, chest tightness, and nasal congestion.

Per CDC recommendations, the employee visited a healthcare provider for testing, and a positive result was confirmed.

"The safety and privacy of our staff is one of our top priorities. We are working collaboratively with Bertie County Emergency Services and our local healthcare partner, Albemarle Regional Health Services, to ensure the continued health of our staff and our citizens," Mr. Vaughan added today.

"We understand that it has been an exceptionally long several months with safer at home orders and limited opportunities to be with family and friends. However, we continue to encourage citizens to take precautions and follow the three (3) W's – <u>Wash</u> your Hands, <u>Wear</u> a Face Covering, and <u>Wait</u> 6 feet away from others while completing essential travel. Our thoughts and prayers are with this employee, as well as with all of those still stricken with this virus," Chairman Ronald Wesson said today.

For the most up to date information about the Coronavirus, please visit CDC.org, NCDHHS.gov, as well as follow all respective social media accounts including the official Facebook page for Bertie County Government. Media inquiries may be relayed to Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, at 794-5302 or <u>mitch.cooper@bertie.nc.gov</u>.