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For Immediate Release:

**Johnston County Encourages Use of Face Coverings
June 18, 2020
2:30 p.m.**

Smithfield, NC – On behalf of the Johnston County Board of Commissioners, Chairman Ted Godwin is encouraging residents of Johnston County and visitors to use face coverings. The Chairman’s request is based on conversations with Dr. Marilyn Pearson, Johnston County Public Health Director. “With the increase of positive cases of COVID-19 in our county, it is extremely important for us to remain vigilant in our efforts to limit the spread of this virus,” Godwin said. “Many of our positive cases are from those who are asymptomatic, which results in unknowingly spreading the virus. Wearing a face covering, physically distancing oneself from others and utilizing good hygiene habits are all critical steps in reducing the virus’s impact on public health.”

County Health Director Dr. Marilyn Pearson shared the following guidance: “Today’s message is part of our overall strategy to protect public health and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. With your help, if we wash our hands frequently, practice social distancing and cover our faces when we are out in public, we can help minimize the risk of infecting those around us. I know it is an adjustment; however, I believe it will help limit the spread of this virus and ultimately save lives.”

Residents and community partners are encouraged to visit the County’s website www.johnstonnc.com and follow our social media channels for regular updates.

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