



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**April 7, 2020**

Karen Powell, Public Health Director  
Steve Garrison, Rutherford County Manager  
Frankie Hamrick, Emergency Management Director

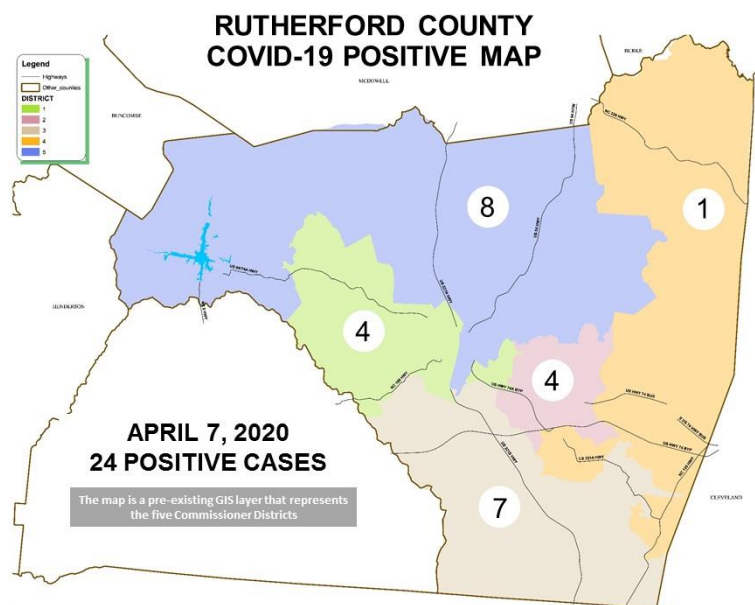
## **RUTHERFORD COUNTY ISSUES MAP OF COVID-19 CASES**

The Rutherford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has released a new map that shows the breakdown of COVID-19 cases in Rutherford County. Public Health Director, Karen Powell stated, "The map being released today represents the most current numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 in Rutherford County. Unfortunately, the positive cases continue to rise, therefore these numbers will be outdated quickly. While this map may represent the general location of current positive cases, it is NOT indicative of where COVID-19 is in our community. I encourage you not to feel a sense of security with the information on this map. COVID-19 is everywhere you go in Rutherford County. There is possible transmission of COVID-19 in every store, gas station, grocery store, businesses and bank teller machine you may visit. Additionally, we can assume that there are people in our communities who may be COVID-19 symptomatic and asymptomatic who may not realize it yet and have not been tested, which exponentially increases the percentage of community spread in our county. It is my strongest recommendation that you adhere to the stay at home order issued by Rutherford County, each town, and Governor Cooper. Do not leave your home unless it is essential and if you must leave your home, practice extreme social distancing. It is critical that you practice good hygiene by washing your hands as often as possible, do not touch your face and be extremely cautious with all public surfaces.

Assume every time you leave your home or workplace that you are being exposed to the COVID-19 virus, it can and will infect anyone. These are unprecedented times in our community, please be vigilant and treat it as serious as life and death. We will get through this together, together as a community".

To receive daily alerts from the Emergency Operations Center, please text your zip code to 888777.

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**Michael Benfield**

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