**October 16, 2020**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**COVID-19 CASE IDENTIFIED AT GASTONIA FARMER’S MARKET**

**GASTONIA, N.C. –** The Gastonia Farmer’s Market and the Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services are informing the public of a positive COVID-19 case involving a vendor working at the Gastonia Farmer’s Market on Saturday, October 10th and Tuesday, October 13th. Anyone who visited the market on these days is encouraged to monitor their symptoms and seek testing if needed. You can find local testing opportunities by visiting www.ncdhhs.com/testingplace or by calling the local Coronavirus Hotline at (704) 862-5303.

Gastonia Farmer’s Market and Gaston DHHS are working closely together to notify potential close contacts and monitor the situation. Routine case investigation and contact tracing protocols are being followed. Because of the potential exposure to the public and inability to identify all close contacts, the public is being notified so they can assess their own risk and take appropriate actions.

To allow time for contact tracing and public notification, the Gastonia Farmer’s Market will close from Saturday, October 17th – Thursday, October 22nd and reopen on Saturday, October 24th. They will also conduct a deep cleaning of their facility during this time.

If you have questions about your potential exposure, please reach out to the Coronavirus Call Center at (704) 862-5303.

The best protection against COVID-19 at this time is to stay at home when you feel sick and observe the 3 Ws:

* Wear a cloth face covering if you will be with other people
* Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

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