

# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** July 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Health Department – Request for Two Project Positions

**PRESENTER:** Steve Smith, Health Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes  
1. COVID 19 Nurse Position Request - Board of Health Presentation

### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Henderson County Department of Public Health has identified a need for expanded core capacity to support long term response activities for COVID-19. As outlined in the attached presentation, these needs include vaccine management and distribution, central coordination of case investigations, testing oversight and reporting and ongoing support to long term care facilities, schools, daycare centers and other institutions for testing, reporting and clinical guidance.

The request is for 2 public health nurse positions (Public Health Nurse II classification) that would be deemed project positions. The cost of the positions would be covered by funds afforded specifically for COVID-19 response through the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The positions would end when there is no longer a need or the funds are exhausted.

The Henderson County Board of Health reviewed the information and supported the need for this expanded capacity at their June 8, 2021 meeting. They asked that the matter be forwarded to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for consideration and approval.

The positions have been discussed with the Human Resources Department.

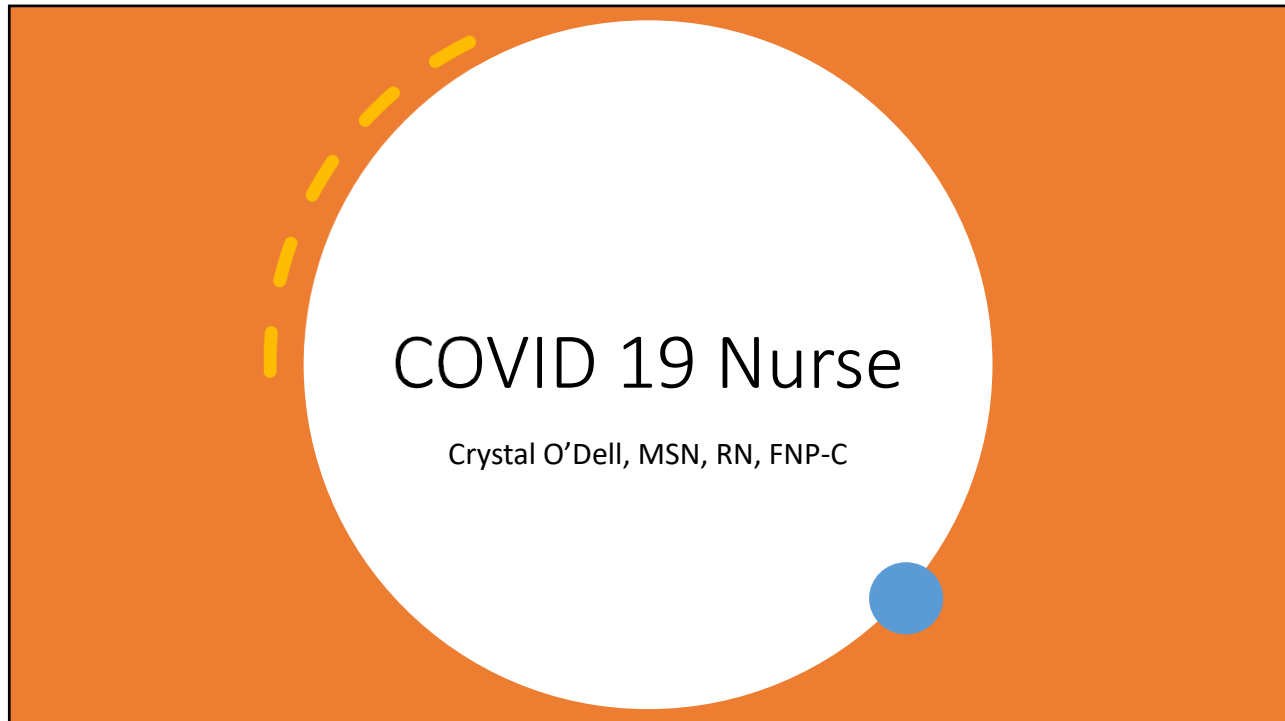
No County funding would be required.

### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to approve the addition of two public health nurse project positions for COVID-19 response.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board approve the addition of two public health nurse project positions for COVID-19 response activities.*



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## Current COVID Duties

- Vaccinations**
  - COVID vaccine is being given daily by appointment and walk in basis with an average of 19 vaccines being given a day.
  - Maintain supply of COVID vaccine and work with community partners to redistribute vaccine as needed
  - Vaccinations for home bound persons
- Contact Tracing/Case Investigation**
  - Daily monitoring of breakthrough cases, school clusters and other trends
  - Liaison to CCNC staff
- Testing**
  - Management of supplies, reporting to state and quality assurance process
- LTCF Liaison**
  - Continued support to LTCF regarding COVID 19 clinical guidance

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## Who is doing this now?

- Vaccinations
  - Managed by Communicable Disease nurse supervisor
  - Executed by CCNC staff (ends 6/30) and PRN staff
- Contact Tracing/Case Investigation
  - PRN staff member who will be leaving organization in July
- Testing
  - Care Management Nurse Supervisor
- LTCF Liaison
  - Clinic Nurse

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## Why Hire Another Nurse?

- The nurses that are filling these roles need to transition back to their normal duties as our focus shifts back to traditional community needs
- PRN staff currently completing duties have plans to pursue full time employment.
- Available staff through CCNC contract is decreasing as these employees are also seeing other employment.

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How would this position be funded?

- We have received approval to use existing COVID support agreement addenda funds to cover this position.