



Type here to search This Folder [Address Book] [Options] [Log Off]

- Mail
- Calendar
- Contacts
- Email Settings

Reply Reply to All Forward Move Delete Close

## For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's Flu Epidemic

Jyrita Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 2:39 PM



**From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate**  
Mecklenburg County



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 2, 2018

**CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell**  
**(919) 733-5650**  
[Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net)

### Flu Epidemic

**Charlotte, NC** – On February 27, North Carolina Health Secretary, Dr. Mandy Cohen, provided an update on the 2017-18 flu season at the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice meeting. North Carolina is on its way to setting a state record for flu-related deaths. Last year, 219 people died from the flu in the state. According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the total of flu deaths increased by 27, reaching the 200 threshold in the current season. There have been 144 deaths of citizens 65 or older, 42 for ages 50 to 64, eight for ages 25 to 49, three for ages 5 to 17, two for ages 18 to 24, and one from birth to age 4. Although the peak may have passed, March is expected to have some weeks of continued activity.

This flu season has affected Mecklenburg County’s most vulnerable patients. According to a report, Charlotte ranked number 2 nationwide for areas with the most severe flu cases. The Carolinas Healthcare Center and Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center restricted children twelve and under from visiting patients to prevent the spread of the flu. Six assisted living facilities in the area announced widespread flu cases in January.

Flu symptoms may include pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infection, exacerbations of asthma, and congestive heart disease. Patients diagnosed with the flu are also vulnerable to bacterial infection. The flu shot may help one out of three people from catching the flu and alleviate symptoms for those infected. Forty-two percent of flu-related deaths have been vaccinated, while the remaining fifty-eight percent had no documentation of the flu vaccine.

**“The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services remain steadfast in providing statistical data and preventive measures for citizens. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the many that have lost family members and friends. We must remain vigilant and do all we can to protect ourselves and others,”** said Senator Joyce Waddell.

###

- Deleted Items (1)
  - Drafts (3)
  - Inbox (3)
  - Junk E-Mail
  - Sent Items
- 
- [Click to view all folders](#)
- 16-12 Grants Committee
  - 17-07 (45)
  - 17-08 (26)
  - 17-09 (45)
  - 17-10 (41)
  - 17-11 (42)
  - 17-12 (27)
  - 18-01 (43)
  - 18-02 (45)
- [Manage Folders...](#)