



Type here to search

This Folder



Address Book



Options



Log Off

- Mail
- Calendar
- Contacts
- Email Settings

- Deleted Items
- Drafts
- Inbox (3)**
- Junk E-Mail
- Sent Items

[Click to view all folders](#)

- 16-12 Grants Committee
- 19-10 (57)**
- 19-11 (33)**
- 19-12 (46)**
- 20-01 (26)**
- 20-02 (18)**

[Manage Folders...](#)

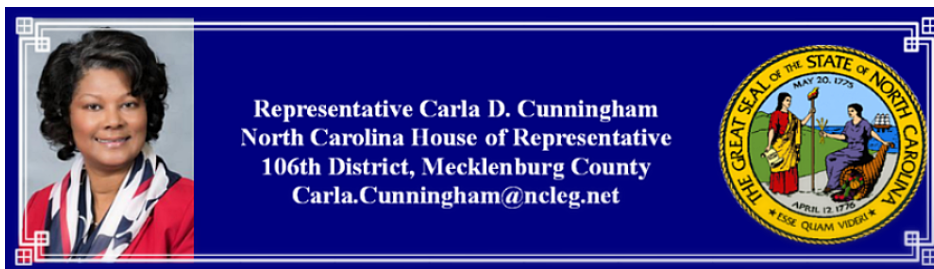
Reply Reply to All Forward Move Delete Close

### Rep. Carla Cunningham's March 2020 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Steve Johnston



#### Rep. Carla Cunningham: House Committee Assignments 2017-2018 Session

- Appropriations
- Appropriations Health and Human Services
- Commerce
- Energy and Public Utilities
- Health
- Wildlife Resources

#### Non-Standing Committee

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

#### Appointments by North Carolina House of Representative Speaker Tim Moore

- Minority Health Advisory Council
- North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

#### North Carolina Institute of Medicine Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program

**March 5, 2020**



North Carolina Identifies First Case of COVID-19

Press Release by NCDHHS

March 3, 2020

A North Carolina person has tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The test, conducted by the [North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health](#), is presumptively positive and will be confirmed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lab.

The person is doing well and is in isolation at home.

“I know that people are worried about this virus, and I want to assure North Carolinians our state is prepared,” said Governor Roy Cooper. “Our task force and state agencies are working closely with local health departments, health care providers and others to quickly identify and respond to cases that might occur.”

The North Carolina person from Wake County traveled to the state of Washington and was exposed at a long-term care facility where there is currently a COVID-19 outbreak. Local health department officials are identifying close contacts to monitor symptoms and contain spread. To protect individual privacy, no further information will be released.

While awaiting confirmation of results from the CDC, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will treat presumptive cases as positive and follow CDC guidelines to protect public health and limit the spread of infection.

Today’s announcement represents an isolated case, and COVID-19 is currently not widespread in North Carolina. Because COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, North Carolinians should take the same measures that healthcare providers recommend annually to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses, including washing your hands, avoiding touching your face and covering coughs and sneezes.

Last month, Governor Cooper established the [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Task Force](#) to support the state’s ongoing effort to monitor, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. State actions include:

- Aggressively pursuing containment strategy of rapid identification, testing and contact tracing.
- Engaging in daily collaboration with federal, state and local partners to ensure rapid response.
- Mobilizing resources for our providers, local public health system, local emergency management and others.
  - Developing detailed response plans for multiple sectors for a range of scenarios.
  - Developing guidance for planning for multiple sectors for a range of scenarios.
- Preparing health care providers and facilities to streamline and standardize response activities.
  - Activating a Joint Information Center to provide timely information.
    - Testing patients in the NC State Laboratory of Public Health.
- Leading regular calls with local health departments, hospitals and local emergency management.
- Providing guidelines for health care providers, child care, employers, schools, colleges and universities and others.
- Monitoring residents who have returned from China through local health departments.
  - Staffing a COVID-19 phone line to answer urgent questions from the public.
- Maintaining an up-to-date website with information about COVID-19 disease, risk and guidance.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like the CDC and NCDHHS.

For more information, please visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and NCDHHS' website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus), which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

---

### **Governor's Task Force Encourages North Carolinians to Increase Preparedness Measures for COVID-19**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that Americans should be anticipating and preparing for the possibility of widespread COVID-19 in the United States. Since late January, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and NC Emergency Management (NCEM) have been operating a team to coordinate efforts around the state's response. In early February, Governor Cooper formalized this effort with the creation of the COVID-19 Task Force.

NCDHHS and NCEM are working closely with local health departments, health care providers and others to quickly identify and respond to any potential isolated cases that might occur in the state and prepare North Carolinians to be ready in the event of more widespread, national COVID-19 transmission.

The following are common-sense measures all North Carolinians can take to prepare for potential widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the state:

#### **Individuals, Families and Communities**

- NCDHHS recommends everyone continue taking precautions to protect themselves and others from the spread of respiratory illnesses, which includes COVID-19.
  - Wash hands frequently with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
    - Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
  - Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
    - Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
  - Maintain more personal space between you and other people than you might usually.
- It is also good practice to start being more aware of the number of times a day your hands touch an object or hard surface and then touch your face without being washed. Limiting the exposure of your nose, mouth and eyes to unwashed hands can help to protect from the spread of all germs and illnesses.
- Have a plan in case you need to miss work or other responsibilities due to personal illness or to care for a sick family member.
- For pregnant women and children, review the information and guidance available on

the CDC website.

### **Businesses and Employers**

- Practice good hand hygiene and encourage your employees and patrons to take common-sense precautions to protect themselves from the spread of respiratory illnesses.
- Review your policies and procedures for remote or teleworking where possible.
  - Cross-train employees for key functions so that daily schedules can continue relatively uninterrupted by potential employee absences.
- Review absenteeism policies to make sure employees are not being encouraged to come to work if they are sick.
- If you have not already, establish a relationship with your local health department and communicate with them if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19.
- Look for more updates and guidance for businesses available on the CDC website.

No one group, ethnicity or population in the US is at a higher risk for acquiring COVID-19 infection than others. While some people may be worried or have concerns about COVID-19, it is important to not let fear and anxiety lead to social stigma towards friends, neighbors or members of the community. Treat all people with compassion and speak up if you hear others making statements that cause stigma against people in your community.

All North Carolinians can better prepare for COVID-19 by getting up-to-date information directly from reliable sources like NCDHHS and the CDC. The COVID-19 outbreak has been accompanied by a global flood of misinformation from unreliable sources. Be thoughtful about what you read or hear about the virus and make sure you are separating rumor from fact before you act.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the CDC's website at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). North Carolina resources can be found on the Division of Public Health website at [ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus).

If you have questions or concerns, call the COVID-19 Helpline toll free at 1-866-462-3821. To submit questions online, go to [www.ncpoisoncontrol.org](https://www.ncpoisoncontrol.org) and select "chat."



### **Operation Silver Shield: Anti-Robocall Initiative**

This week the North Carolina Department of Justice launched Operation Silver Shield to confront scammers and fraudsters who target older North Carolinians.

North Carolinians can highlight bad actors by reporting them with a detailed web form ([ncdoj.gov/robo-report-taskforce](https://ncdoj.gov/robo-report-taskforce)) and dedicated robo-report hotline (1-844-8-NO-ROBO). NCDOJ is asking people to report information about the scam calls they receive by using the web form and the hotline. Their information will help NCDOJ investigate potential scammers.

The anti-robocall initiative is the first program rolled out under Operation Silver Shield. Throughout the year, NCDOJ will continue to protect people from scams, take legal action against fraudsters when necessary, and educate people on how best to keep themselves and their parents and grandparents safe. For more information, please visit [ncdoj.gov/operation-silver-shield](https://ncdoj.gov/operation-silver-shield).



Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed March Women's History Month to honor the legacy of women whose visionary leadership has shaped the state of North Carolina and the nation.

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and Department of Administration have created various opportunities around the state to explore the contributions of extraordinary women and the impact on the state. Here are a few ways you can celebrate:

- March 6. N.C. Museum of History, Raleigh. You Have to Start a Thing exhibit opening
- March 6. HBA's RTP Fourth Annual International Women's Day
- March 7- 21. Reed Gold Mine, Midland. More than a Woman
- March 14. Mountain Gateway Museum, Old Fort. Mighty Mountain Women
- March 14. Museum of the Cape Fear, Fayetteville. Hoop Skirts and Gunpowder: A Woman of the Fayetteville Arsenal.
- March 17. CFW's Annual Women's History Month Celebration
- March 21. Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, Sedalia. Charlotte Hawkins Brown Book Club. "Their Eyes Were Watching God."
- The month of March. She Changed the World Traveling Exhibit (various locations)
- The month of March. Historic Stagville, Durham. Stories of Stagville Women Tours.

A Women's History Month celebration will be held later this month to acknowledge to accomplishments of past and present women in North Carolina. Chief Justice Cheri Beasley will be the keynote speaker.

For more information on Women's history month and statewide programming <https://www.ncdcr.gov/news/press-releases/2020/02/19/women%E2%80%99s-history-month-programs-state-historic-sites-and-museums>.

Traveling Women's History Exhibit details <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/featured-programs>

[/she-changed-world-north-carolina-women-breaking-barriers/she-changed-world-0.](#)

---



### **NC Medicaid Celebrates 50 Years of Improving Health for North Carolina**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of North Carolina's Medicaid program, which provides health coverage for low-income adults, children, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities throughout the state.

Launched in 1970, Medicaid provides health coverage to people who otherwise would likely be unable to afford it. It is funded by both the federal government and the state. Today, Medicaid and NC Health Choice support the health and well-being of 2.2 million North Carolinians and covers more than 65,000 births in the state. In 2019, close to a third of North Carolina Medicaid funding covered care for children, nearly half for people with disabilities and about 14% for people 65 and older.

Years of research show that Medicaid improves health, has long-term benefits for children and improves financial security. Medicaid beneficiaries have better access to care than those without insurance and therefore are more likely to access preventive care. Medicaid provides access to health care for low-income pregnant women and children, which has played a significant role in reducing the infant and child mortality rate over the last 50 years. In addition, research shows that Medicaid benefits state and local economic activity, creating jobs and income in North Carolina.

In January of this year, DHHS announced that Medicaid was under budget for the sixth consecutive year. The NC Medicaid 2019 annual report also noted that the program increased rates for primary care providers for the first time in several years. Rates also were increased for personal care services, which raised pay for caregivers and for dental services, increasing the services provided.

North Carolina is one of a small number of states that has not expanded Medicaid. Doing so would allow more than 500,000 North Carolinians to access affordable health coverage. States that have expanded Medicaid are experiencing better health outcomes, lower health insurance premiums for those with private insurance, fewer opioid overdoses and increased financial stability for rural hospitals. Under expansion, the federal government would pay 90% of the cost, and hospitals and health plans would pay the remaining 10% in North Carolina. There would be no cost to individual state taxpayers.

[Our view: Still blocking Medicaid expansion](#)

Winston-Salem Journal

---



[Crime, suspensions, dropouts down in NC schools. No corporal punishment reported.](#)

The News & Observer

[Editorial: Stop diverting Lottery funds from promised education enhancements](#)

Capitol Broadcasting Company

[North Carolina's rural areas need investments that will draw young people](#)

The News & Observer

[Duke Energy asks for rate hike but NC agency says customers should get substantial cut](#)

Charlotte Observer

[Eastern North Carolina communities look to map their way out of hunger](#)

North Carolina Health News

[Our Opinion: The people want larger teacher raises and Medicaid expansion. Give it to them.](#)

News & Record

[Federal Funds Granted To Help NC's Fishing Industry](#)

Public Radio East

[Editorial: Want to save N.C.'s rural hospitals? Expand Medicaid now](#)

Capital Broadcasting Company

[Conservatives, rural leaders in NC call for Medicaid expansion](#)

NC Policy Watch

[How Partisan Gerrymandering Limits Access to Health Care](#)

Center for American Progress

[NC needs 2 million people with post-high school degrees by 2030. The workforce demands it.](#)

The News & Observer

[Disparity in North Carolina public school funding widens](#)

The Charlotte Post

[NC's Newest Voters Are Young And Likely Hispanic Or Asian](#)

WUNC

[NC remains on track for 14th U-S Congressional seat](#)

Public Radio East

[Our Opinion: Fraudulent cause](#)

News & Record

[Expanding the EITC in North Carolina could save lives](#)

NC Policy Watch

[After years urging people to get a REAL ID, the DMV now asks: Do you really need one?](#)

The News & Observer

[Seven years later, the GOP's unemployment reforms still haunt NC](#)

NC Policy Watch



[Follow on Twitter](#)[Friend on Facebook](#)[Website](#)

Copyright © 2017 Rep. Carla D. Cunningham, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a resident of Mecklenburg County .

**Our mailing address is:**

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham  
1400 Sansberry Road  
Charlotte, NC 28262



[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to [sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham · 1400 Sansberry Road · Charlotte, North Carolina 28262 · USA



Connected to Microsoft Exchange