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### The latest news for you

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 1:18 PM

To: Steve Johnston

March 13, 2020

## Representative Nasif Majeed District 99



### Latest News on COVID-19:

As of the morning of March 13th, North Carolina currently has 15 positive cases reported with more expected.

NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) is making the following recommendations for all North Carolinians to reduce the spread of infection while we are still in an early stage in order to protect lives and avoid strain on our health care system.

#### 1. SYMPTOMATIC PERSONS

If you need medical care and have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspect you might have COVID-19, call ahead and tell your health care provider you have or may have COVID-19. This will allow them to take steps to keep other people from getting exposed. NC DHHS recommends that persons experiencing fever and cough should stay at home and not go out until their symptoms have completely resolved.

#### 2. HIGH RISK PERSONS WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

NC DHHS recommends that people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should stay at home to the extent possible to decrease the chance of infection.

People at high risk include people:

- Over 65 years of age, or

- with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, or
- with weakened immune systems.

### **3. CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES**

NC DHHS recommends that all facilities that serve as residential establishments for high risk persons described above should restrict visitors. Exceptions should include end of life care or other emergent situations determined by the facility to necessitate a visit. If visitation is allowed, the visitor should be screened and restricted if they have a respiratory illness or potential exposure to COVID-19. Facilities are encouraged to implement social distancing measures and perform temperature and respiratory symptom screening of residents and staff. These establishments include settings such as nursing homes, independent and assisted living facilities, correction facilities, and facilities that care for medically vulnerable children.

### **4. SCHOOLS**

We do not recommend pre-emptive school closure at this time but do recommend that schools and childcare centers cancel or reduce large events and gatherings (e.g., assemblies) and field trips, limit inter-school interactions, and consider distance or e-learning in some settings. Students at high risk should implement individual plans for distance or e-learning. School dismissals may be necessary when staff or student absenteeism impacts the ability to remain open. Short-term closures may also be necessary to facilitate public health investigation and/or cleaning if a case is diagnosed in a student or staff member.

### **5. WORKPLACE**

NC DHHS recommends that employers and employees use teleworking technologies to the greatest extent possible, stagger work schedules, and consider canceling non-essential travel. Workplaces should hold larger meetings virtually, to the extent possible. Additionally, employers should arrange the workspace to optimize distance between employees, ideally at least six feet apart. Employers should urge high risk employees to stay home and urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.

### **6. MASS GATHERINGS, COMMUNITY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS**

NC DHHS recommends that organizers of events that draw more than 100 people should cancel, postpone, modify these events or offer online streaming services. These events include large gatherings where people are in close contact (less than 6 feet), for example concerts, conferences, sporting events, faith-based events and other large gatherings.

### **7. MASS TRANSIT**

Mass transit operators should maximize opportunities for cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces. People should avoid using mass transit (e.g. buses, trains) while sick.

## 8. IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Here are known methods to reduce and slow the spread of infection.

- Frequent hand washing
- Staying home when sick
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Community-based interventions can also help slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes measures collectively known as “social distancing.” Social distancing measures aim to reduce the frequency of contact and increase physical distance between persons, thereby reducing the risks of person-to-person transmission.

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 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/> and NCDHHS’ website at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus>, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

## Beware of Price Gouging and Other Scams

Because Governor Cooper placed North Carolina in a state of emergency, the state’s price gouging law is in effect. Under the law, the Attorney General’s Office can put a stop to price gouging and seek refunds for consumers who paid too much. The courts may also impose civil penalties against price gougers of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

To file a complaint visit: <https://ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint/price-gouging/>

## General Assembly Suspends Interim Committee Meetings

North Carolina has a part-time legislature and it is not in session right now. We are scheduled to return to session on April 28, but Governor Cooper can call us back into a special session on short notice if action or appropriations are needed to fight the coronavirus.

What typically happens when the legislature is not in session are interim committee meetings. These committees meet to hear progress reports on what is going on with key issues or to tackle issues that are complex and require more time and attention than what may be available during legislative session times.

Because of the Coronavirus, all interim committee meetings have been suspended. School tours of the legislative building have been cancelled and legislative employees are encouraged to work from home if their job so allows.

Please know that my legislative assistant and I continue to work on constituent

case work and to prepare for the April 28 session. If you need to contact us, please email us at [majeedla@ncleg.net](mailto:majeedla@ncleg.net).

PEACE!!



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