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COVID-19 UPDATE

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2020 4:08 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

May 7, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



PEACE.

Update on COVID-19 Case Count

According to the Department of Health and Human Service's official count as of May 7, North Carolina has 13,397 cases. There are 525 people hospitalized with COVID-19 with 507 confirmed deaths. In Mecklenburg County, we have 1,922 confirmed cases with 58 deaths.

You can visit the state's COVID-19 dashboard to see how we are doing on the important benchmarks we need to meet to ease stay-at-home restrictions and see demographic data, zip code counts, and other info:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-case-count-nc>

Governor Cooper Announces Modified Stay At Home Order and Transition to Phase 1 of Easing Restrictions

Governor Roy Cooper signed [Executive Order No. 138](#) to modify North Carolina's Stay At Home order and transition to Phase 1 of slowly easing certain COVID-19 restrictions effective Friday, May 8 at 5 pm. Certain businesses will remain closed.

The Order removes the distinction between essential and non-essential businesses. Retail businesses are allowed to open at 50% capacity and will be required to direct customers to stand 6 feet apart, perform frequent cleanings, provide hand sanitizer when available, screen workers for symptoms, and more. The Order allows people to leave their homes for commercial activity at any business that is open.

Certain businesses remain closed, including bars, personal care businesses, entertainment venues, and gyms. Restaurants may only continue to serve customers for drive-through, take out, and delivery.

All workers at retail and other businesses are recommended to wear cloth face coverings. Teleworking is still encouraged for businesses that can practice it.

Though small outdoor gatherings will be allowed in Phase 1, gatherings of more than 10 people are still prohibited. The Order encourages cloth face coverings to be worn when outside the home and in contact with others. Everyone who uses a face covering should adhere to this guidance without fear of profiling or bias.

During Phase 1, childcare facilities will be open to serve families of parents who are working or looking for work. These centers will be required to follow strict cleaning protocols. Summer day camps can operate in compliance with NC DHHS guidelines.

In explaining the Order, Governor Cooper and Secretary Cohen reported North Carolina remains stable on the following key metrics:

Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days

- North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing.

Trajectory of Lab-Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days

- North Carolina's trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over the last 14 days cases is slightly increasing.

Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days

- North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over the last 14 days is decreasing.

Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days

- North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations over the last 14 days is level.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to be able to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread. These areas include:

Laboratory Testing

- North Carolina has doubled the daily testing rate.

Tracing Capability

- The Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative has received over 4,000 applications and is in the process of hiring 250 new contact tracers.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Supply chains continue to improve with the exception of gowns.

The order is in effect until 5 pm on Friday, May 22. However, the end of this Order does not necessarily mean the state will move to Phase 2. Phase 2 will

only start if data and indicators are in the right place.

Read [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the Order.

What's new in Phase One?

On **Friday, May 8 at 5pm**, North Carolina will move into Phase One. The **Stay at Home order** remains in place with some modifications. Here's what Phase One means for our state:

	Through May 8	Phase One
Commercial activity	People should only leave home for essential purposes (food, medicine, etc)	People can leave home for commercial activity and more businesses are open
Retail	20% capacity allowed	50% capacity allowed with cleaning and social distancing
Gatherings	10 person limit	10 person limit-gathering outdoors with friends allowed
Childcare	Childcare centers open for essential workers only	Childcare centers open for working parents or those looking for work
Teleworking	Encouraged	Encouraged
Bars and Restaurants	Take-out and delivery	Take-out and delivery
Barbers/Salons/Massage	Closed	Closed
Theaters, Music Venues, Bowling Alleys	Closed	Closed
Gyms	Closed	Closed
Playgrounds	Closed	Closed
Visitation at Longterm Care Centers	Not allowed	Not allowed
Worship Services	Outdoor services allowed	Outdoor services allowed
State Parks and Trails	Local discretion	Opening encouraged
Face Coverings	Encouraged	Encouraged

North Carolina Health Insurance Options

Many North Carolinians have recently lost health insurance benefits due to the economic effects of COVID-19. If you are in need of health insurance, NCDHHS has created a [healthcare option list](#) to help you find options that may work for you and your family. If you recently lost your employer-based insurance, you may qualify for special enrollment programs, and should check your status at [healthcare.gov](#).

Limited Reopening of Most State Parks on Friday

State parks are set to partially reopen on Friday, May 9, including most trails and restrooms.

Visitor centers, exhibits, meeting rooms, community buildings, picnic shelters,

and retail areas will remain closed to enable staff to focus on cleaning restrooms and implementing social distancing on trails and other open areas.

No campgrounds will be open. Campgrounds are expected to open May 22. Group camps will not open until at least June 30. No facility rentals will be available, including picnic shelters.

Please check park pages for park hours. Some parks may close early.

Parking will be limited to available spaces to keep parks under capacity. Overflow parking will not be allowed. Several parks will further limit parking capacity to allow for social distancing.

For more information and to see individual park details, visit:

<https://www.ncparks.gov/OPEN>

School Buses to Serve as Wi-Fi Hot Spots for Remote Learning

Starting this week, additional school buses will bring internet access to communities without it to help more North Carolina students connect to school online. Governor Roy Cooper announced the plan to equip more school buses with hotspots following the announcement that K-12 public schools would continue remote learning through the end of this school year. As many as 280 more school buses will be equipped with Wi-Fi thanks to donations from AT&T, Google and Duke Energy Foundation.

The buses will travel to underserved areas in school districts and park in designated locations, such as a school nutrition meal distribution site or a grocery store, so students can use this temporary access to turn in assignments, download materials and connect with teachers. The drive-up Wi-Fi access will also be available for all residents in the communities to use to connect to healthcare providers, apply for unemployment, and access other critical information and services while exercising appropriate social distancing precautions.

These buses will join the hundreds of other free Wi-Fi hotspots from providers across the state who are already providing locations where residents can access the internet during this crisis.

Schools in Avery, Bertie, Bladen, Burke, Caswell, Chowan, Columbus, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Montgomery, Northampton, Perquimans, Person, Randolph (includes Asheboro City Schools), Robeson, Sampson (includes Clinton City Schools), Scotland, Tyrrell, Vance, Wayne, Warren and Yadkin counties will receive the first 156 Wi-Fi hotspots. Outreach to other school systems to determine the location of additional hot spots is ongoing.

Local school officials will determine the exact locations and schedules for school bus Wi-Fi hot spots in their communities. Additional information, including links for locations, will be added to NCDIT's webpage when available at www.ncbroadband.gov/covid19.

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