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Not out of the woods yet

Cynthia Wallace [info@cynthiawallaceforcongress.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:59 AM
To: [Steve Johnston](#)

Hello Steve,

Last week, I reported that North Carolina has hit its highest hospitalization numbers ever, but this week, [a new record high of hospitalizations is being set every day](#).

Seeing the latest news on COVID-19, it is clear that we are not out of the woods yet, and maintaining social distancing measures is going to be critical to ensure every county in our district, and our state, begins to see a decrease in cases.

What's more, NC-09 in particular continues to be hit hard by this pandemic. [According to these stats provided by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#) (NC DHHS), Mecklenburg County has the highest number of cases in the state, but this isn't just an issue in our major cities. Robeson County currently has the highest number of cases per capita in the district and one of the highest in the state. [Fortunately, according to the data collected by the New York Times, both Anson and Richmond counties' cases are now decreasing over the last two weeks.](#)

While this academic school year has concluded, our state has begun planning ahead for much-needed adjustments for students to return to school, while also staying healthy. On Monday, [Governor Cooper issued the state's guidelines for reopening public schools](#). These guidelines offer options for either remote or in-person learning, with flexibility on moving between both options depending on the status of the pandemic. The guidelines also recommend social distancing measures and PPE to minimize exposure for those most at-risk, and temperature checks for everyone entering school buildings or school buses.

The governor says that these guidelines for reopening schools are based on key

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benchmarks related to the spread of the virus that state health officials are monitoring. **Dr. Mandy Cohen, secretary of the NC DHHS, expressed concerns Monday that the state was moving in the wrong direction in terms of those benchmarks.**

I know that for many parents, balancing work and your kids' education has been incredibly difficult. And we all hope that life can return to some level of normalcy as soon as possible. But keeping everyone safe and healthy is critical at this time, and continuing to do our part to flatten the curve will help us get through this, together.

Warm regards,

Cynthia

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