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COVID-19 NC Update - NC Moves Into Phase 3 Due to Stable COVID-19 Metrics

NCDHHS Communications [news@dhhs.nc.gov]

Sent: Friday, October 02, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Steve Johnston

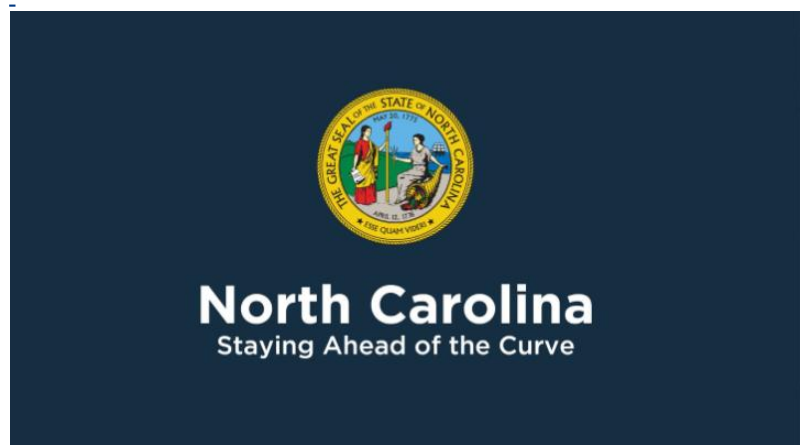View this email in your browser

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Oct. 2, 2020
NC Moves to Phase 3 Due to Stable Numbers
Due to stability in NC's COVID-19 key metrics, Governor Cooper announced North Carolina will move to Phase 3 on Oct. 2., further easing some restrictions.

North Carolina
Staying Ahead of the Curve

Under Executive Order 169:

- Large outdoor venues with seating greater than 10,000 may operate with 7% occupancy for spectators.
- Smaller outdoor entertainment venues, such as arenas or amphitheaters, may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Movie theaters and conference centers may open indoor spaces to 30% of capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Bars may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Amusement parks may open at 30% occupancy, outdoor attractions only.
- The limits on mass gatherings will remain at 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.
- The 11 p.m. curfew on alcohol sales for in-person consumption in locations such as restaurants and outdoor bars will be extended to Oct. 23.

State and public health officials will continue watching the key COVID-19 trends over the next

several weeks to determine if any further restrictions can be eased when Executive Order 169 expires Oct. 23. For more information, read the Executive Order's frequently asked questions and review Phase 3 guidance.

NCDHHS Launches SlowCOVIDNC Exposure Notification App

The COVID-19 Exposure Notification app called SlowCOVIDNC from NCDHHS will help North Carolinians slow the spread of the virus by alerting them when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is completely anonymous and does not collect, store or share personal information or location data.

A day after announcing the launch of SlowCOVIDNC, more than 50,000 people had downloaded the app. SlowCOVIDNC, which leverages Google and Apple's Exposure Notification System (ENS), alerts users who have the app if they have been in close contact with an individual who later tests positive for COVID-19. It is voluntary to download and use and designed to enhance the state's existing contact tracing efforts.

Download the free SlowCOVIDNC app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and enable Bluetooth and Exposure Notifications. Bluetooth must be on for the app to work.

- Learn more about how SlowCOVIDNC works.
- Get answers to Frequently Asked Questions.
- Find out how your privacy is protected.
- Use our communications toolkit to help us promote SlowCOVIDNC.

More COVID-19 News

- NCDHHS added antigen testing to its COVID-19 NC Dashboard, including positive COVID-19 cases and deaths diagnosed with an antigen test and the number of antigen tests completed daily.
- Due to stability in NC's COVID-19 key metrics, NCDHHS updated its Secretarial Order to allow indoor visitation at some nursing homes.
- Telehealth visits by NC Medicaid enrollees have surpassed approximately 1.1 million since DHHS established telehealth flexibility policies in early March.
- In a new, $7 million statewide effort, NCDHHS is partnering with United Providers of Health to address the unmet health needs of historically marginalized communities.
- NCDHHS updated its COVID-19 guidance for places of worship and a new toolkit is available to support faith leaders in slowing the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 Testing

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested. If you are sick, use the Check My Symptoms tool to help you determine if you need a COVID-19 test. People who do not currently have symptoms but may have been exposed to COVID-19 should also get tested, especially people from historically marginalized communities, including Latinx/Hispanic, Black/African American and American Indian populations, who have been disproportionately affected by the virus.

North Carolina has upcoming community testing events scheduled in **Alamance**, **Brunswick**, **Carteret**, **Cumberland**, **Durham**, **Edgecombe**, **Forsyth**, **Franklin**, **Gaston**, **Guilford**, **Harnett**, **Iredell**, **Lee**, **Mecklenburg**, **Onslow**, **Orange**, **Randolph** and **Wake** counties. For an up-to-date list of events, visit the Community Testing Events webpage. Many events offer testing at no cost. For more details about a specific event, call ahead before you go for a test.

COVID-19 testing is also provided at some local health departments, doctor and clinician offices, hospitals and clinics, many pharmacy sites and retail outlets, and other community locations. Some people who work in long-term care facilities and other high-risk settings may be tested through their work. You can find testing sites by using the Find My Testing Place tool online..

Get the Latest Information

- Visit the NCDHHS COVID-19 Response website for information, a data dashboard, updates, live briefings and more.
- Go to North Carolina's COVID-19 Information Hub for resources, information and assistance across state government, including the latest news releases.
- Follow NCDHHS on social media for advance notice of press briefings and a recap.

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