

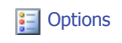


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NC Expands Pre-Thanksgiving No-Cost COVID-19 Testing / NC Task Force for Racial Equity Makes Recommendations
 Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2020 12:35 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

November 21, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed
District 99 - Mecklenburg County



North Carolina Expands Pre-Thanksgiving No-Cost COVID-19 Testing in Partnership with Retailers, Test Vendors

Peace. This weekend, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is offering more than 120 no-cost COVID-19 community testing events, including new locations in partnership with retailers to help North Carolinians protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities as they prepare for Thanksgiving.

In addition to existing testing events throughout the state, grocery stores in seven counties are offering testing on November 20-22: Buncombe, Cumberland, Durham, Iredell, Johnston, **Mecklenburg**, and Union. Select Carlie C's IGA, Compare Foods, Food Lion, Ingles Markets, and Target will have walk-up and drive-thru testing.

For a full list of all testing event times and locations throughout the state, visit the [No-Cost Community Testing Events page](#) on the NCDHHS website. More locations are being added each day. Additional testing sites can be found at [Find My Testing Place](#).

Anyone can get tested for COVID-19 at the events. People without insurance are eligible for testing and identification documents are not required. Children and adults may be tested, but a parent or legal guardian must be present with anyone 17 and younger.

People who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been around a person with COVID-19 should not shop in person until their isolation or quarantine period has ended. This includes shopping at partner retailers during testing events.

North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice Makes Marijuana Recommendations

The North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice, co-chaired by Justice Anita Earls and Attorney General Josh Stein, adopted recommendations related to marijuana. Those include a recommendation to decriminalize marijuana possession in small amounts and to further study potential legalization of marijuana possession, cultivation, and sale.

Right now, possession of up to ½ ounce of marijuana is a class 3 misdemeanor, not subject to imprisonment but subject to a fine up to \$200. In 2019, there were 31,287 charges and 8,520 convictions for this offense; 61 percent of those convicted were nonwhite. Possession of more than ½ ounce up to 1.5 ounces of marijuana is a class 1 misdemeanor, subject to up to 45 days imprisonment and a \$200 fine. In 2019, there were 3,422 charges and 1,909 convictions for this offense; 70 percent of those convicted were nonwhite.

The Task Force recommends:

- Decriminalizing possession of up to 1.5 ounces of marijuana by making such possession a civil offense;
- Expunging past convictions through an automatic process;
- Improving drug enforcement data collection and reporting;
- Requiring law enforcement agencies to publish drug enforcement data on its website in an easily searchable way;

The Task Force will release its full recommendations in a report to Gov. Roy Cooper on December 15, 2020.

Enjoy your upcoming holiday and try to stay safe. PEACE!



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