

2020 - A YEAR OF CHALLENGES



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Representative Nasif Majeed
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2020 - A Year of Great Challenges

PEACE. 2020 was a year of great challenges for North Carolinians. The COVID-19 global pandemic negatively affected our livelihoods, government and economic stability. I am so thankful that our scientific community has formulated a vaccine that has proven effective. I look, with hope, for its rapid deployment and timely vaccination of our citizens.

I look forward in 2021 to working on legislation to address reform in our criminal justice system, Medicaid expansion and increasing the minimum wage to a living wage. With the help and support of the citizens of House District #99, I am grateful to you for your re-electing me and I look forward to serving you in the upcoming 2021-22 Biennium.

I have listed some information that you may find useful. I wish you and your family a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

NCDHHS REVISES PLAN FOR VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

Yesterday, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced revised plans for distributing COVID-19 vaccines. The revisions are in response to updated guidance from the CDC and supply limitations.

Vaccines will continue to be distributed in phases.

Phase 1a, which began earlier this month, will continue unchanged and includes healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients, healthcare workers administering the vaccines and long-term care facility staff and residents.

Phase 1b, which begins next week, has been revised. Individuals eligible for vaccination during Phase 1b include adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers (e.g., first responders, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, grocery store workers, manufacturing workers, public transit workers, teachers and school support staff). Eligible individuals during Phase 1b have been subdivided into three groups and vaccinations will be made available in the following order:

- Group 1: Anyone 75 years or older
- Group 2: Health care workers and frontline essential workers who are 50 years or older
- Group 3: Health care workers and frontline essential workers of any age

Phase 2 will also subdivide eligible individuals into prioritized groups and make vaccinations available in the following order:

- Group 1: Anyone 65 to 74 years old
- Group 2: Anyone 16-64 who has high-risk medical conditions (e.g., cancer, COPD, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, Type 2 diabetes)
- Group 3: Anyone living in close group living situations
- Group 4: Essential workers (e.g., transportation and logistics, water and wastewater supply, food service, shelter and housing, finance, information technology, energy, legal, media, public safety and public health workers)

Phase 3 will include college and university students, as well as K-12 students who are 16 years or older. Please note that the vaccines have not been approved for children under 16.

Finally, Phase 4 will include everyone who has not already been vaccinated.

You can find answers to frequently asked questions [here](#) and an informational flyer [here](#).

Mecklenburg Co. Public Health, Atrium Health, Novant Health, And Charlotte–Mecklenburg Emergency Management Encourage Everyone Over 75 To Get Vaccinated When Available

People In Phase 1b Will Start To Receive the Vaccine Soon

Mecklenburg County Public Health, Atrium Health, Novant Health, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management jointly support everyone over the age of 75 to get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as it is available.

More details about how the vaccine will be distributed will be announced early next week. Vaccine supplies are still limited, and appointments will be made available as that supply allows. We will all work to get this vaccine out as soon as possible.

Yesterday, The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced that it had updated its vaccination plan to align with new federal recommendations issued last week. The changes simplify the vaccine process and continue the state's commitment to first protect health care workers caring for patients with COVID-19, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying, and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19. Because vaccine supplies are currently limited, states must make vaccine available in phases. On December 22, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices released updated [interim vaccine prioritization recommendations](#) for the next phases of vaccinations. North Carolina's updated plan is outlined below. Current Phase –**Phase 1a: Health care workers fighting COVID-19 and long-term care staff and residents.**

- Hospitals and local health departments are vaccinating health care workers caring for and working directly with patients with COVID-19 and those giving vaccines. In addition, the federal government is vaccinating long-term care residents and staff.

Phase 1b: Adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers, which will start here next week. [Learn more about NC Phase 1b here.](#)

The next phase of vaccinations will open in groups:

- Group 1: Anyone 75 years or older regardless of medical condition or living situation. People do not have to have a chronic health condition.
- Group 2: Health care and frontline essential workers who are 50 years of age or older.
- Group 3: All other patient-facing direct health care workers not vaccinated in Phase 1a and frontline essential workers of any age. There is no requirement to have certain qualifying chronic conditions.

Patient-facing direct health care workers includes any paid or unpaid health

care workers with direct patient contact including, but not limited to:

- behavioral health providers
- community health workers
- dental hygienists
- dentists
- EMT/paramedics
- environmental services staff
- food services staff
- health care trainees (e.g., medical students, pharmacy students, nursing students)
- home health workers
- laboratory and phlebotomy staff
- nurses
- nursing aides and assistants
- nursing techs
- front desk administrative staff
- personal care aides
- pharmacists
- pharmacy techs
- physicians
- public health and emergency preparedness workers
- public health nurses
- respiratory techs.

The CDC defines frontline essential workers as first responders (firefighters, police), education (child care, teachers, support staff), manufacturing, corrections officers, public transit, grocery store, food and agriculture, and US postal workers.

Once plans for distribution of the vaccine to residents over the age of 75 have been completed, a detailed announcement will be made early next week.

For more information about the vaccine and COVID-19, please visit mecknc.gov/covid-19.

Governor Cooper Signed Executive Order 184 to Extend Evictions Moratorium through January 31

This week, Governor Cooper signed **Executive Order 184**. The order extends the evictions moratorium through January 31, 2021. The full text of the order can be found [here](#).

This Order protects individuals who qualify under the CDC Order, including those who:

- have used their best efforts to obtain government assistance for housing;
- are unable to pay their full rent due to a substantial loss in income;
- are making their best efforts to make timely partial payments of rent; and
- would become homeless or have to move into a shared living space if evicted.

Individuals must also meet certain financial requirements, which include earning \$99,000 or less (or earning \$198,000 or less for joint filers).

Applicants eligible for the North Carolina Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) program are specifically protected from eviction under this Order.

A list of frequently asked questions for Executive Order No.184 can be found [here](#).

Happy New Year - Stay Safe! PEACE!



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