Latest COVID-19 County Alert System + COVID Vaccine Information

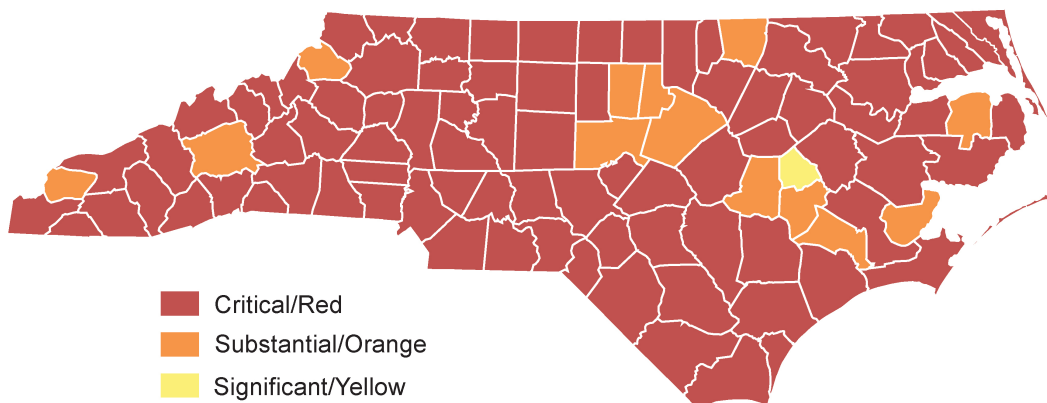|	
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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Jan. 22, 2021

Critical or Substantial COVID-19 Spread in 99 NC Counties

NC Counties by Tier: Data from January 3 through January 16, 2021

■ Critical/Red
■ Substantial/Orange
■ Significant/Yellow

- The latest [COVID-19 County Alert System](#) shows that 99 North Carolina counties are now listed as red or orange. Eighty-six counties are red with critical community spread and 13 are orange with substantial community spread.
- The [Secretarial Directive](#) remains in effect, and with COVID-19 positive cases, percent of cases that are positive and hospitalizations [remaining high](#), please remember to:
  - **Wear a mask at all times and maintain physical distance** (at least 6 feet)

from people when you leave your home.
- ○ **Stay home. Only go out for essential activities** like work, school, health care, or caring for family, or buying food.
- ○ **Avoid gathering with people that you do not live with.** If you cannot avoid being with other people, stay outside and keep it very small. Do not do things where you need to take off your mask, like eating or drinking.
- ○ **If you were with people who you do not live with,** you should assume you may have become infected and get tested.

Rev. Aaron on the Importance of Taking Your Shot

Rev. Darryl Warren Aaron of Providence Baptist Church in Greensboro participated in a public service announcement where he urged others to get the COVID-19 vaccination when it becomes available. Rev. Aaron acknowledged the concerns that many in the Black community have, saying: "In many ways we do have a dark history around medicine with African-Americans, but this is an opportunity to move into the light."

Get a Free Ride to Your Vaccination Spot

Don't let a lack of transportation prevent you from getting to your spot to take your shot. A partnership between the NC Department of Transportation and NCDHHS now provides free rides to those who need transportation to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Just reach out to your local transit agency.

For more information about when it's your spot to take your shot, go to YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov.

Governor Visits Large Vaccination Site at UNC

Photo: Travis Long, News and Observer

Accompanied by NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, Governor Roy Cooper visited a large-scale vaccine site at UNC-Chapel Hill's Friday Conference Center as health care workers and those over the age of 65 were vaccinated in the first phase of COVID-19 vaccinations.

"The number one priority right now is getting this vaccine administered to North Carolinians as quickly and as equitably as possible," Governor Cooper said. "I'm grateful for the health care providers working tirelessly to get these shots into more people's arms and helping us get to the other side of this pandemic."

UNC Health CEO Wesley Burks, MD, added that in addition to working as quickly as possible, they were dedicated to ensuring equity in the distribution of vaccines in the community.

Download the SlowCOVIDNC App to Slow the Spread

Our COVID-19 metrics remain high and we need your help to slow the spread. In addition to practicing the 3 Ws you can download SlowCOVIDNC, the official exposure notification app of North Carolina.

More than 656,000 people have already downloaded SlowCOVIDNC. The app alerts users when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The more people who download and use the app, the more we can slow the spread of the virus.

The app is completely anonymous and does not collect, store or share personal information or location data. Download for free on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

COVID-19 Testing

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19, has been around people outside of their household or thinks they have been exposed to the virus should get tested. If you are sick, use the Check My Symptoms tool to help you determine if you need a COVID-19 test.

North Carolina has upcoming no-cost community testing events scheduled throughout the state. For an up-to-date list of events, visit the No-Cost Testing Events webpage. 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. You can find testing sites by using the Find My Testing Place tool online.

Get the Latest Information

- Visit the NCDHHS COVID-19 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.