

## NCDHHS Launches New COVID Vaccine Tools + NCDHHS Launches COVID Fireside Chat Series



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**Date** 2021-02-05 13:05

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# COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

*Feb. 5, 2021*

**NCDHHS Launches New Vaccine Tools**



COVID-19  
Vaccine Help

**888-675-4567**  
**YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov**

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North Carolinians have new [tools](#) to find out if they are eligible to get their vaccine and where to go to receive it.

[Find My Vaccine Group](#) walks you through a series of questions to determine your vaccine group, and you can sign up to be notified when your group is ready for vaccination. [Find a Vaccine Location](#) is a search tool that lets North Carolinians enter their ZIP code or current location to find nearby vaccine providers.

The newly expanded COVID-19 vaccine help center can be reached at **888-675-4567** Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Callers can get help with general COVID-19 vaccine questions, information on eligibility groups, clinical questions about the vaccine, how to find vaccine locations and transportation services.

The COVID-19 vaccine help center supports English and Spanish calls, and teletypewriter (TTY). Callers will be able to select call back assistance where they receive a call when agents are available instead of waiting in line for an agent. The language line will be available for all other languages needed.

North Carolina's goal is to vaccinate as many people as quickly and equitably as possible, although supplies of the vaccines remain limited. NC is currently vaccinating people in [Group 1](#) and [Group 2](#), which include health care workers, those who work and live in a long-term care setting; and anyone 65 years or older.

Detailed information about each group is online at [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](#) (English) or [Vacunate.nc.gov](#) (Spanish).

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## [\*\*NCDHHS Launches COVID-19 Vaccine Fireside Chat Series\*\*](#)



NCDHHS has started a new live stream series to address and provide updates on the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan.

The series kicked off Feb. 2 and featured NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen as the host, Deputy Secretary Ben Money as MC, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber as its first guest, and Spectacular Magazine Publisher and CEO Phyllis Coley as the moderator. Watch a [recording](#) of the event.

The fireside chats are part of the state's ongoing public engagement to slow the spread of COVID-19 and ensure equitable access to timely information, resources and COVID-19 vaccines.

Each talk will be hosted by a NCDHHS official and will feature health experts, community leaders and others who serve historically marginalized populations and rural communities. Future fireside chats will be hosted via the NCDHHS [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages and announced once they are scheduled.

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**[Continue Practicing the 3 Ws to Stay Safe](#)**

## If you leave home, know your Ws!



North Carolinians are working hard to protect one another, and we are seeing the results. But there is still a lot of work ahead of us.

In the latest [COVID-19 County Alert System](#) report, 94 percent of North Carolina counties still remain red or orange with critical or substantial COVID-19 spread. Additionally, newer, potentially more contagious [variants of COVID-19](#) have been confirmed and suspected in North Carolina.

We need to keep doing the [3 Ws](#). Whenever you are with people that don't live with you, keep wearing a mask over your mouth and nose, wait 6 feet apart, and wash your often hands often.

### [Download the SlowCOVIDNC App 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 686,000 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

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information or location data. Download for free on the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#).

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## **Other COVID-19 News**

- Demographic data for COVID-19 vaccines is now [available by county](#) on the vaccine data [dashboard](#).
  - On Feb. 4, Governor Cooper [outlined](#) a plan for allocating federal COVID-19 relief funds for immediate needs and investing state resources to help North Carolina communities build back as the state turns the corner on the pandemic.
  - Top state education leaders joined Governor Roy Cooper on Feb. 2 to [call on](#) K-12 school districts across the state to allow in-person instruction for all students.
  - North Carolina [surpassed](#) the 1 million mark of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered across the state on Jan. 29. The milestone capped a week when the state's vaccine providers administered more than 99% of first doses.
  - On Feb. 3, DHHS [announced](#) that data for that day's COVID-19 dashboard included a large number of delayed reports from urgent care tests, which accounted for 7,912 of the 12,079 for that day, and cases of COVID-19 in NC are still trending downward.
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## **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, you can 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.

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## **Get the Latest Information**

- Visit the [NCDHHS COVID-19 website](#) for information, a [data dashboard](#), [updates](#),

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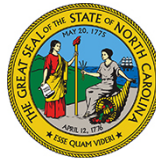
[live briefings](#) and more.

- 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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