New Resources on Spanish Language COVID Vaccine Website + Child Care School Workers Eligible for Vaccine Feb. 24

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New Resources Added to Spanish Language Vaccination Website



NCDHHS has <u>added</u> new resources to its Spanish language COVID-19 vaccination <u>website</u>, including a new <u>video</u> on COVID-19 vaccines.

<u>Protégete a ti y a los demás. ¡VACÚNATE!</u> is part of North Carolina's commitment to providing everyone with access to COVID-19 information and vaccines. To support this guiding principle, North Carolina is drawing upon the experience and expertise of Latinx/Hispanic leaders to develop and implement its vaccine plan.

The new resources are designed to help Spanish speakers learn about the COVID-19 vaccines, find out when they are eligible, determine when and where they can get vaccinated and find resources to encourage vaccination within their communities.

Child Care, School Workers Eligible for COVID Vaccine Feb. 24



NCDHHS will <u>begin moving</u> to <u>Group 3</u> for COVID-19 vaccines next week. Because supply is limited and the population of frontline essential workers is so large, Group 3 will begin with vaccinating anyone working in child care or in PreK – 12 schools starting on **Feb. 24**. <u>Additional frontline essential workers</u> will be eligible for vaccinations on **March 10**.

<u>Those eligible for the vaccine starting Feb. 24</u> include staff in child care centers and homes, Head Start programs, preschool and PreK programs, traditional public schools, charter schools and private schools. Anyone who must be in-person—such as teachers, bus and van drivers, custodial and maintenance staff, and food service workers—will be eligible to take their shot.

Some vaccine providers may not be ready to open to frontline essential workers on these dates if they are still experiencing high demand for vaccines in Groups 1 and 2, which includes health care workers, those who work and live in a long-term care setting, and anyone 65 and older. To see when it's your spot to get your shot, go to <u>YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov</u> (English) or <u>Vacunate.nc.gov</u> (Spanish). To find out where to get your COVID-19 vaccine, go to <u>Find a Vaccine Location</u>. You can also learn more about how <u>safe and effective</u> COVID-19 vaccines come to you, as well as <u>10 facts</u> you should know about the vaccines.

For help with general COVID-19 vaccine questions, information on eligibility groups, clinical questions about the vaccine, and how to find vaccine locations and transportation services, call **888-675-4567** Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



More Help for Buying Food for 860,000 Children Through P-EBT

NCDHHS, in partnership with NC Department of Public Instruction, will <u>begin issuing</u> additional benefits on Feb. 19 through the <u>Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)</u> program to those who already have an EBT card for <u>Food and Nutrition Services</u> or P-EBT benefits. The <u>P-EBT program</u> helps families purchase food for children whose access to free and reduced-price meals at school has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program provides a benefit on an EBT card that can be used to buy food at authorized food and grocery retailers, including most major grocery stores. Families do not need to apply. Eligibility is based on <u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u> requirements. P-EBT benefits received in February 2021 is for the months of August to December 2020 for eligible students. More information about P-EBT can be found at <u>ncdhhs.gov/PEBT</u>.

Improve How Your Mask Protects You



NCDHHS has additional recommendations to sure masks are as protective as possible based on guidance from the <u>CDC</u>. It is recommended that you:

- Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face and covers your nose and mouth. To help with a snug fit, use a mask with a metal strip along the top of the mask.
- Use two or more layers for your face covering. You can do this by wearing a cloth face covering with two or more layers or by wearing one disposable mask underneath a cloth mask.
- Do not wear two disposable masks.
- Make sure you can see and breathe easily.

WRAL's Dr. Mask Discusses COVID-19 Vaccination



Listen as WRAL's Dr. Allen Mask <u>talks about</u> getting his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, potential side effects, and concerns that some in marginalized communities may have about the vaccines.

Download the SlowCOVIDNC App to Slow the Spread



If you haven't already, download the <u>SlowCOVIDNC app</u>, the official exposure notification app of North Carolina. <u>SlowCOVIDNC</u> alerts users when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

More than 710,000 people have already downloaded <u>SlowCOVIDNC</u>, but the more people who download and use <u>SlowCOVIDNC</u>, the more we can slow the spread of COVID-19.

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

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 <u>tested</u>. If you are sick, you can use the <u>Check My Symptoms</u> 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 <u>No-Cost Testing Events</u> 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 <u>Find My Testing Place</u> tool online.

Other COVID-19 News

- Due to severe weather, the federal government <u>notified</u> NCDHHS of continued delays in some shipments of COVID-19 vaccine this week.
- Nearly \$27 million in grants has been <u>awarded</u> to 34 municipal and county governments in North Carolina in response to the adverse economic and public health impacts of COVID-19.
- On Feb. 11, NCDHHS <u>reported</u> the first identification of the COVID-19 variant B.1.351 in a North Carolina resident, which was first detected in South Africa.

Get the Latest Information

- Visit the <u>NCDHHS COVID-19 website</u> for information, a <u>data dashboard</u>, <u>updates</u>, <u>live briefings</u> and more.
- Go to <u>North Carolina's COVID-19 Information Hub</u> for resources, information and assistance across state government, including the latest <u>news releases</u>.
- Check out <u>YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov</u> to learn more about <u>finding your spot</u> when it's time to get your shot, how to find your <u>vaccine group</u> and a <u>vaccine</u> <u>location</u>, <u>videos</u> about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.
- Follow NCDHHS on social media for advance notice of press briefings and a recap.



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