

Frontline Essential Workers Eligible for COVID Vaccine + NC Top in Vaccinating People 65 and Over



From NCDHHS Communications <news@dhhs.nc.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

March 5, 2021

Frontline Essential Workers Now Eligible for COVID Vaccine



There is [good news](#) in our efforts to get North Carolinians vaccinated as fast and fairly as possible.

With the [authorization](#) of the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine, we now have three tested, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines that keep people out of the hospital and prevent COVID-19-related death. Vaccine supplies are still far below what we need to vaccinate everyone, but with three vaccines North Carolina can get more people vaccinated sooner.

All frontline essential workers in [Group 3](#) are now eligible for vaccine. You can find participating vaccine providers at MySpot.nc.gov.

On March 24, North Carolina plans to open up vaccinations to [Group 4](#), beginning with people who have a medical condition that puts them at higher risk and individuals who are homeless or live in a correctional facility.

NCDHHS has also clarified that:

- [Group 1](#) includes people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- [Group 4](#) includes people with higher-risk medical conditions, including intellectual and developmental disabilities including Down syndrome, and neurologic conditions, such as dementia.

Previously eligible groups – health care workers, long-term care staff and residents, people 65 and older, and child care and school staff – will continue to be prioritized.

Visit [YourShotYourSpot.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/your-shot-your-spot) (English) or [Vacunate.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/vacunate) (Spanish) for more information about the vaccines, including answers to [frequently asked questions](#), and to see when and where to get your shot.

Not sure what vaccine group you're in? Visit [FindMyGroup.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/find-my-group). You can also contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center toll-free at 1-888-675-4567.

[Essential Workers: You Have a Spot, Take Your Shot](#)



[All frontline essential workers](#) are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination and can talk with their employers about vaccination opportunities or find participating vaccine providers at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/my-spot). Make a plan to take your shot!

[North Carolina Top in Nation for Vaccinating People 65 and Older](#)

The [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) has [ranked](#) North Carolina as first in the nation for vaccinating the largest share of its 65 and older population at 49%. This rate does not include those in long-term care facilities.

Older adults are at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. They make up the majority (83%) of deaths from COVID-19 in the state. Because of limited supply, states have to vaccinate people in phases. North Carolina began vaccinating adults 65 and older in mid-January.

As of March 3, North Carolina has [administered](#) more than 2.6 million total doses of the COVID vaccines.

Visit [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/your-spot-your-shot) for accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines. To slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives, continue to practice the 3 Ws - wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart and wash your hands.

[Governor Cooper Receives COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



Photo credit: Robert Willett of the News & Observer

Governor Roy Cooper [received](#) his first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine March 3 at WakeMed Raleigh Campus.

"As we enter Group 3 prioritization, I'm proud to have received my shot today from North Carolina health workers who have served on the front lines of this pandemic for the past year," Gov. Cooper said. "These vaccines are safe and effective, and critical to beating this pandemic. Every North Carolinian will have a spot and I encourage them to get their shot."

[Cafecito: COVID-19 Vaccines](#)



NCDHHS hosted a [Cafecito](#) in Spanish on March 3 to discuss the safety and effectiveness of the approved COVID-19 vaccines and the state's commitment to ensure everyone in the state has equitable access to receive their shot.

[Other COVID News](#)

- The [latest](#) metrics from the [COVID-19 County Alert System](#), shows six red counties — a decrease from 27 red counties on the previous Feb. 22 County Alert System and the fewest red counties in the state since the start of the [County Alert System](#).
- New COVID-19 cases in North Carolina's long-term care facilities have [declined](#)

[rapidly](#) in the last several weeks and most facilities currently meet the criteria to resume indoor visitation while continuing infection prevention recommendations.

- NCDHHS has [instructed](#) K-12 schools to open for in-person instruction following the [StongSchoolsNC](#) health guidance, as continued research shows mitigation measures allow safe in-person learning.
- NCDHHS will be [expanding](#) access to COVID-19 rapid testing in K-12 public schools to protect students, teachers and staff from COVID-19.

[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](#).

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.



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

More than 777,000 people have already downloaded SlowCOVIDNC, but the more people who download and use SlowCOVIDNC, 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 [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#).

[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](#).
- Check out [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](#) to learn more about [finding your spot](#) when it's time to get your COVID-19 vaccine, how to find your [vaccine group](#) and a [vaccine location](#), [videos](#) 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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Our mailing address is: NCDHHS, 2001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

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