

NC Begins Move to Group 4 for COVID Vaccine + COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit



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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

March 19, 2021

Higher Risk People in Group 4 Now Eligible for COVID Vaccine



North Carolina continues to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to even more people. Anyone with a medical condition that puts them at high-risk of severe illness as well as people in some additional congregate living settings became eligible on March 17.

Other members of [Group 4](#), including other non-frontline essential workers and other people in close group living settings, will be eligible starting April 7. [Learn more about who is eligible for vaccination in Group 4.](#)

Previously eligible groups – [health care workers and long-term care staff and residents](#), [people 65 and older](#), and [frontline essential workers](#) – will continue to be prioritized.

Over a quarter of all North Carolinians 18 and older are at least partially vaccinated and 17 percent are fully vaccinated. That means more than 1.3 million North Carolinians have been fully vaccinated.

Not sure what vaccine group you're in? Visit [FindMyGroup.nc.gov](#). You can also contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center toll-free at 1-888-675-4567. When it's time to get your shot, you can find participating vaccine providers at [MySpot.nc.gov](#).

Visit [YourShotYourSpot.nc.gov](#) (English) or [Vacunate.nc.gov](#) (Spanish) for more information about the vaccines, including answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

[Rev. Dr. William Barber Gets Johnson & Johnson COVID Vaccine](#)



Listen to Rev. Dr. William Barber [talk about](#) getting his one-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at the PNC Arena in Raleigh on March 5. Rev. Barber was accompanied by NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D., who also received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine that day. [Read more.](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit](#)



You can help people in your community find their spot and take their shot. NCDHHS has created a [one-stop shop](#) for ready-made materials to help you communicate about safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Anyone who is sharing information about the COVID-19 vaccine with their community, including health care professionals, team leaders, community and business leaders and non-profit organizations, can use and adapt the [resources](#) to build confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines.

The toolkit will be updated frequently with sample social media posts, graphics and other materials for you and your organization to use. It is also available in [Spanish](#).

For more information, go to YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov.

[Richard Petty Gets His COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



Listen to North Carolina native and NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty [share](#) his reasons for getting vaccinated and why others should find their spot and take their shot. [Read more.](#)

[COVID-19 Testing](#)

Testing is just as important as ever to curb the spread of COVID-19. 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](#).

Getting a test has never been easier! North Carolina has upcoming no-cost community testing events scheduled throughout the state, including sites that offer rapid testing. 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.

[NCAA Coaches Encourage North Carolinians to Take Their Shot](#)



Listen to [NCAA basketball coaches](#) from across North Carolina encourage their colleagues, teammates, students and fans to take their shot against COVID-19 by getting vaccinated.

[Updated Long-Term Care Guidance](#)

NCDHHS is [updating](#) its visitation guidance for long-term care facilities to allow for in-person, indoor or outdoor, visitation in most circumstances. The change aligns with new guidance released by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and reflects [rapidly improving trends](#) in long-term care facilities.

In addition to updating its guidance, the department is [rescinding Secretarial Order 6: Visitation for Long-term Care Facilities](#).

While outdoor visitation is best when possible, indoor visitation is now allowed for all residents, regardless of vaccination status, except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission in a particular facility. It is recommended that unvaccinated residents who wish to become vaccinated should not start indoor visitation until they have been fully vaccinated.



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 792,000 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](#).

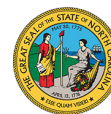
[Get the Latest Information](#)

- 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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