

New Executive Order Relaxes Mask Mandate + CDC and FDA Lift Recommended Pause of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine



From NCDHHS Communications <news@dhhs.nc.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Date 2021-04-30 11:34

[View this email in your browser](#)

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

April 30, 2021

[New Executive Order Relaxes Outdoor Mask Mandate; Eases Mass Gathering Limits](#)

On April 28, Governor Roy Cooper and NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. gave [an update](#) on the state's current data, trends and vaccination progress. As the state's metrics and key indicators remain stable, Gov. Cooper also signed an Executive Order outlining safety measures for the month of May. [Executive Order No. 209](#) will take effect April 30 and is set to expire June 1.

Under the new [Executive Order](#), masks will still be required indoors but are no longer mandated outdoors. Masks are still strongly recommended outdoors by NCDHHS in crowded areas and higher risk settings where social distancing is difficult.

[Executive Order No. 209](#) will also increase mass gathering capacity limits. The number of people who may gather indoors will increase from 50 to 100 and the number of people who may gather outdoors will increase from 100 to 200. Occupancy limits currently in place will remain the same. See more information in the [FAQ document](#) on the Executive Order.

As more North Carolinians get vaccinated and adhere to safety protocols over the course

of the next month, the state anticipates lifting more restrictions on [June 1](#). As of Thursday, 48.7 percent of adults are at least partially vaccinated, and 39.2 percent are fully vaccinated. More than 77.6 percent of people 65 and older have had at least one shot.

[CDC and FDA Lift Recommended Pause of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Following Safety Review](#)

Following a thorough safety review, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have confidence that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19 and [recommend](#) its continued use to prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. NCDHHS is recommending that providers in the state resume administration of the vaccine now that the CDC and FDA have reaffirmed its safety.

The pause was made out of an abundance of caution after reports of six cases of a rare type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. This potential reaction is very rare as millions of people have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. During the pause, medical and scientific teams at the FDA and CDC examined available data to assess the risk of this type of reaction. See more information in a [joint statement](#) from the CDC and FDA.

During the pause, nine additional cases were identified, resulting in 15 total cases among more than 8 million doses given. All of these cases occurred in women between the ages of 18 and 59. More than 250,000 people have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in North Carolina as of April 13, 2021. See more information on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in an [updated fact sheet](#).

[Fireside Chat with Secretaries Cohen and Brewington-Cashwell](#)



NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen and NC Department of Administration Secretary Pam Brewington-Cashwell participated in a [Fireside Chat](#) on April 29 to talk about COVID-19 vaccines.

[Bringing Summer Back Get-out-the-Vaccine Campaign](#)



NCDHHS recently [announced](#) the [Bringing Summer Back](#) get-out-the-vaccine campaign that will engage community organizations across the state to fully vaccinate as many people as possible by summer.

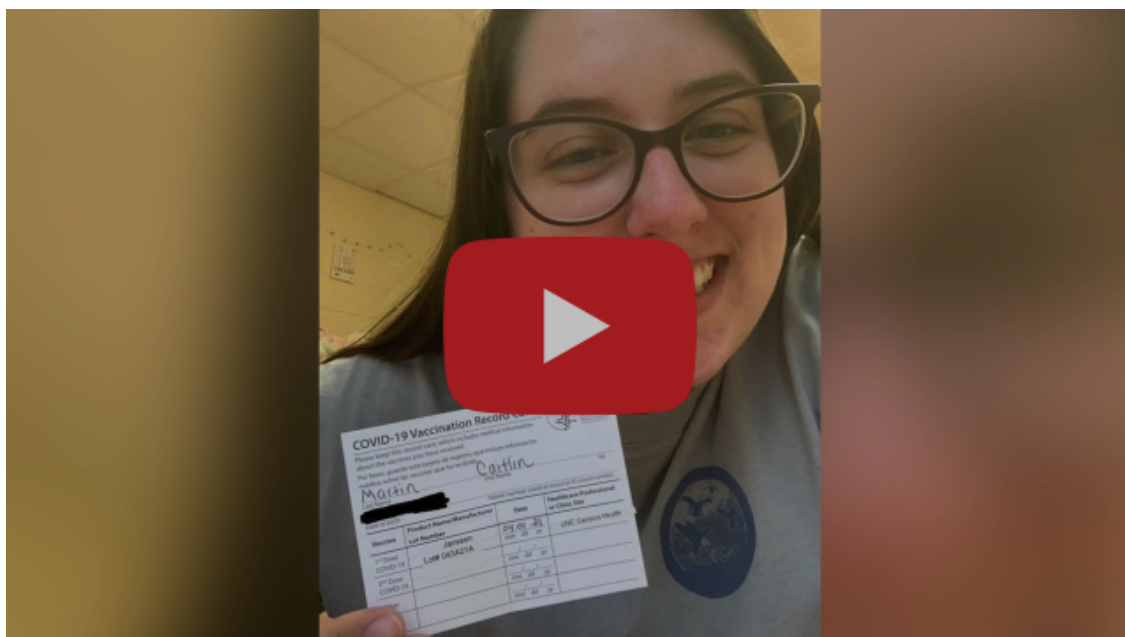
The Bringing Summer Back campaign is a fun, flexible and community-centered approach that creates a space for every organization and individual to roll up their sleeves and do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and get everyone back to the people and places they love.

The campaign will run during two weeks in May and two weeks in June, during which organizations across the state will rally together to promote vaccination. Organizations that would like to get involved can register to participate and access toolkit materials [here](#) (for Spanish [here](#)) or by emailing BringingSummerBack@dhhs.nc.gov.

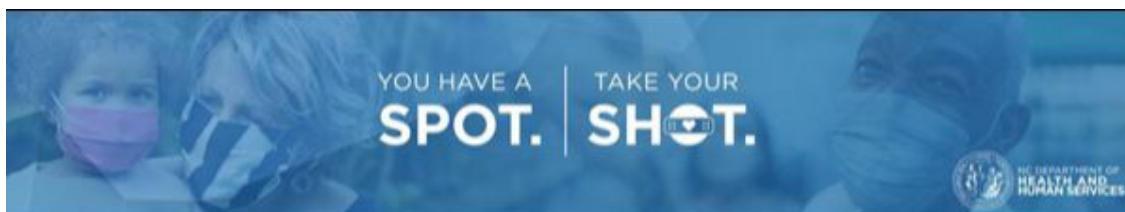
Remember, all adults are now eligible fore the COVID-19 vaccine in North Carolina. Visit

MySpot.nc.gov to make an appointment and YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov (English) or Vacunate.nc.gov (Spanish) for more information about the vaccines, including answers to [frequently asked questions](#). You can also contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center toll-free at **1-888-675-4567**.

[PSA: NC American Indian Leaders on COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



NC American Indian Leaders [talk about](#) the importance of taking your spot to get your shot!



NCDHHS: 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.

Other COVID-19 News

- The federally supported COVID-19 Community Vaccination Center in Greensboro at Four Seasons Town Centre [began offering](#) the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week, which is available in addition to the two-dose Pfizer vaccine already offered.
- NCDHHS [announced](#) the expansion of eligibility for food assistance benefits to help college students who are struggling to purchase food and stay in school during the pandemic.
- As of April 27, NCDHHS in partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction [has provided](#) more than \$1 billion of groceries to more than a million children impacted by school closings during the pandemic through the [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) program](#).

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.

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](#) to get your shot, [videos](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.
 - Follow NCDHHS on [social media](#) for advance notice of press briefings and a recap.



You're receiving this email because you subscribed to receive updates from the NC Department of Health and Human Services

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Subscription Preferences](#)



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

Roy Cooper, Governor | Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary
Chris Mackey, Communications Director

Our mailing address is: NCDHHS, 2001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

This email was sent to sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org
why did I get this? [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
NC DHHS · 2001 Mail Service Ctr · Raleigh, NC 27699-2000 · USA