

Ages 12 and Up Can Now Get a COVID-19 Vaccine + Let's Bring Summer Back



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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

May 14, 2021

Everyone age 12+ is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.
[Learn more](#)

YOU HAVE A
SPOT.
TAKE YOUR
SHOT.



People in North Carolina ages 12 and up are now [eligible](#) for a COVID-19 vaccine. The FDA and CDC have authorized the use of the Pfizer vaccine for younger teens – those between 12 and 15 – based on a review of safety and effectiveness data from clinical trials in the United States.

Young people are vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, just like everyone else. In North Carolina, close to 123,000 children 0 to 17 years old have tested positive for COVID-19 and the percent of COVID-19 cases that are in children 17 and under has been increasing.

"Having a vaccine for our younger teens brings us that much closer to being able to end the pandemic," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "By getting more teens vaccinated they are protecting themselves from the impact of COVID, and they are protecting their families and their communities by stopping the spread of the virus."

You can find participating vaccine providers at MySpot.nc.gov. Filter for Pfizer to find locations that have vaccine for people under 18. The Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine available to those between the ages of 12-17.

Visit 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**.

Governor Cooper Lifts Many COVID-19 Restrictions Following New CDC Mask Guidance

Following yesterday's guidance from the CDC that fully vaccinated individuals can safely do most activities without wearing a mask or the need to social distance from others, the state will [remove its indoor mask mandate](#) for most settings. Additionally, the state will lift all mass gathering limits and social distancing requirements. These changes are now in effect as of 1:30 p.m. today.

Masks will still be required in child care, schools and camps as most children are either not yet vaccinated or are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. Everyone, including people who are fully vaccinated, will still be required to wear a mask in certain settings such as public transportation, health care settings like hospitals, doctor's offices and long-term care settings like nursing homes, and certain congregate settings like correctional facilities and homeless shelters.

People who are not vaccinated should wear a mask and maintain distance in all indoor public settings and in outdoor settings when they can't maintain 6 feet of distance. Masks are strongly recommended for everyone at large crowded indoor events like sporting events and live performances.

Read the [Executive Order](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) about the order.

Secretary Cohen on Authorization of Pfizer Vaccine for 12+



NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen [talks about](#) the importance of getting everyone 12 and older vaccinated. Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](#) to make your appointment today!

[Save the Date: Vaccine on the Green in Raleigh's Dix Park](#)



WHAT: Vaccine on the Green to [Bring Summer Back](#); offering free Pfizer vaccine for ages 12 and up. No ID required.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, May 21; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, May 22; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 23. Appointments are available [here](#) and walk-ups are welcome! A second dose will be offered at Dorothea Dix Park on June 12 or at WakeMed.

WHERE: [Dorothea Dix Park](#), Raleigh, NC ([Adams Building parking lot and field](#))

WHY: COVID-19 vaccines are our best shot to bring back summer and get everyone safely back to the people, places and activities they love. Learn more about these life-

saving vaccines by visiting YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov.

Let's Bring Summer Back



COVID-19 vaccines are our best shot to bring back summer and get everyone safely back to the people, places and activities they love. Find yours today at MySpot.nc.gov and go to our website to learn how you can help us [bring summer back](#) in North Carolina.

Faith Leaders Toolkit

Our Faith Leaders Toolkit was recently updated and is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The toolkit includes six actions faith leaders can take to respond to COVID-19:

1. Participate in the [Bringing Summer Back initiative](#).
2. Keep your congregation and faith community [informed](#) about COVID-19 vaccines and prevention, and share MySpot.nc.gov with your congregation to find a vaccination appointment.
3. Become a vaccine ambassador by [sharing](#) your vaccine story and encourage your networks to share why they got or plan to get the vaccine.
4. Follow [NCDHHS guidance](#) for places of worship to protect your community.
5. Urge your congregation to [get tested](#) for COVID-19 if they have symptoms.
6. Help [connect](#) people to resources and supports.

Other COVID News

- The NCDHHS COVID-19 Support Services Program has [helped](#) more than 41,800 NC households across 29 counties isolate or quarantine during COVID-19.
- NCDHHS [encourages](#) young adults (ages 18-21) who left the state's extended foster care program during the COVID-19 pandemic due to their age to apply for re-entry to receive available services and support through Sept. 30, 2021.
- The North Carolina Department of Transportation [announced](#) that transit systems have helped more than 8,500 people get a COVID-19 vaccine made possible through a state-administered program that helped pay for transportation.



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 can use and adapt the [resources](#) to build confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines.

The toolkit is updated frequently with social media posts, graphics and other materials. It is also available in [Spanish](#).

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.
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