

## Don't Miss Your Shot at \$1M + Vaccination Urged as Variant of Concern Spreads



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# COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

*June 18, 2021*

**[Don't Miss Your Shot at \\$1M: Summer Cash and College Tuition Drawings Start June 23](#)**



**YOUR SHOT**  
**AT \$1 MILLION**  
SUMMER CASH DRAWING

The first of the [Your Shot At \\$1 Million Summer Cash Drawings](#) will take place June 23, and there's still time for North Carolinians to get vaccinated to enter.

The drawings are part of the state's [Bringing Summer Back](#) get-out-the-vaccine campaign to encourage North Carolinians to get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they can. The vaccines have been thoroughly tested and found to be safe and effective for anyone 12 and older.

North Carolinians 18 and over who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19

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vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings for a chance to win a \$1 million cash prize.

Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings to win \$125,000 toward post-secondary education. The \$125,000 can be used at any post-secondary institution and are awarded by funding a savings account in the NC 529 Plan.

On Friday, NCDHHS [announced](#) that more North Carolinians - those vaccinated by the Veterans Administration (VA) and through the Tribal Health Program - are now eligible for the drawings.

Some eligibility restrictions may apply. See the [official rules](#) for details.

Those who are vaccinated starting June 10 will be entered twice for each drawing, increasing the chance of winning for the newly vaccinated.

Drawings will take place every other week on Wednesdays, with the first drawing on June 23 and the last on Aug. 4. New entries will close at midnight on the Sunday prior to the Wednesday drawing. The sooner you get vaccinated, the more chances you have to win.

Learn more at [SummerVaxCash.com](#). For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and to find a vaccine location near you, visit [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](#) or call 1-888-675-4567.

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## **[Health Officials Urge Vaccination as Variant of Concern Spreads](#)**

There is even more urgency to get vaccinated now as the new and more dangerous Delta variant of COVID-19 is [rapidly spreading](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classified the Delta variant as a "variant of concern" because it spreads faster than current COVID-19 variants. Early studies from the United Kingdom have also shown a possible increased risk of hospitalization in people infected with the Delta variant.

The currently available COVID-19 vaccines are the best protection against the virus and its variants. Learn more about the vaccines, including where to find a vaccine location near you, at [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](#).

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## **[COVID-19 FAQ: Secretary Cohen on Hope for the Future](#)**



NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen [discusses](#) her hope for the future of North Carolina as we continue to work to stop the spread of COVID-19 through vaccinations. For more videos that answer frequently asked questions about vaccines, go to the [NCDHHS YouTube channel](#).

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## **[NCDHHS Prioritizing Equity in COVID Testing, Vaccine Strategies](#)**

NCDHHS has made equity a priority in testing and vaccine rollout efforts for high-priority and marginalized populations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As outlined on [PreventEpidemics.org](#), NCDHHS established an equity-driven testing strategy that sought to provide access to testing in communities most affected by COVID-19 early in the pandemic. To rapidly scale up COVID-19 testing and make it more equitable, NCDHHS started its Community Testing for High-Priority and Marginalized Populations (CHAMP) initiative in July 2020.

"We had to take the tests to the people—that was the solution," said Dr. Shannon Dowler, Chief Medical Officer for Medicaid at the NCDHHS.

The CHAMP initiative provided a blueprint for the NCDHHS to design an equitable COVID-19 vaccine rollout: engage with communities to identify needs, look at the data to drive decision-making and adjust the program in real-time as needed.

[Read more](#) about how equity has driven COVID-19 testing and vaccine rollout in North Carolina.

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## Other COVID News

- Last week, Governor Roy Cooper [signed](#) an [Executive Order](#) extending a variety of measures currently in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic until July 30.
- NCDHHS is [expanding](#) the availability of its at-home COVID-19 test collection. All North Carolina residents may request a COVID-19 PCR Test Home Collection Kit shipped overnight directly to their homes at no cost.
- This fall, NCDHHS will [launch](#) an expanded COVID-19 screening testing program to support public, charter and private K-12 schools in protecting students and staff from the spread of COVID-19.



### **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](#).

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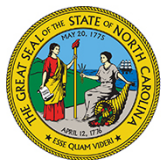
## Get the Latest Information

- 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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