

## Vaccination Urged as COVID Cases Go Up + Bladen County Experiencing Critical Viral Spread



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

*July 9, 2021*

**[Health Officials Urge North Carolinians to Get Vaccinated as COVID Cases Increase](#)**

YOU HAVE A **SPOT.** | TAKE YOUR **SHOT.**

NCDHHS is urging all unvaccinated North Carolinians to get a [COVID-19 vaccine](#) as cases, hospitalizations and deaths have been inching up across the state.

North Carolina's early warning systems are showing more people going to the emergency department with [COVID-like illness](#) and elevated viral levels in wastewater in certain regions of the state.

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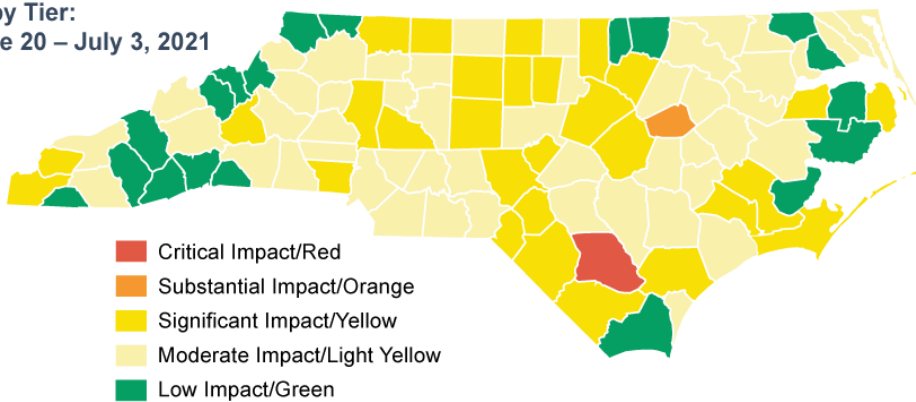
The more infectious and potentially more dangerous Delta variant is also rapidly spreading in North Carolina and across the country.

Since May, more than 99% of new cases in North Carolina have occurred in people who are not fully vaccinated. [Vaccines](#) are proven to be effective against COVID-19 and its variants. North Carolinians can go to [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) to find a vaccine location.

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## **Bladen County Still Experiencing Critical Viral Spread**

NC Counties by Tier:  
Data from June 20 – July 3, 2021



While North Carolina's key metrics continue to show low levels of virus spread overall, the latest [COVID-19 County Alert System Map](#) shows that Bladen County is still experiencing critical viral spread. Bladen County was first listed as experiencing critical viral spread on [June 25](#).

Areas with low vaccination rates have seen increased COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. People should get vaccinated as quickly as possible to slow the spread of the virus.

The [COVID-19 County Alert System](#) uses metrics informed by North Carolina's key metrics to categorize counties into five tiers (see map key above). These metrics provide information about the amount of viral spread and hospital impact in the county. The map is updated every two weeks.

According to the [latest map](#), one county (Bladen) is experiencing critical viral spread and one county (Wilson) is experiencing substantial viral spread. Of the remaining counties, 29 are experiencing significant viral spread, 50 are experiencing moderate viral spread and 19 are experiencing low viral spread.

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# YOUR SHOT

# AT \$1 MILLION

# SUMMER CASH DRAWING

The second round of winners of the state's [Your Shot at \\$1 Million Summer Cash Drawing and Summer Cash 4 College drawings](#) will be announced next week, but there are still two more \$1 million and college scholarship drawings.

North Carolinians 18 and over who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, including people vaccinated at a pharmacy participating in the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#), are automatically entered into the 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 are automatically entered into the drawings to win \$125,000 toward post-secondary education, awarded by funding a savings account in the NC 529 Plan.

Those vaccinated prior to June 10 are entered once, while those vaccinated after that date are entered twice. New entries will close at midnight on the Sunday prior to the Wednesday drawing. The next two drawings will occur on July 21 and Aug. 4.

Some eligibility restrictions may apply. See the [official rules](#) for details. 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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[Get Your Teen the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



[July is Adolescent Immunization Awareness Month](#), a time to highlight the importance of immunizations for North Carolina's preteens and teens. Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are approved for kids 12-17. They are your child's best shot at staying healthy. Find your spot at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://myspot.nc.gov)

### How Summer Camps Can Reduce COVID-19 Risk



# SUMMER CAMP

There are [steps](#) summer camps can take to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. These include:

- Requiring that all staff and eligible campers get vaccinated. Getting a vaccination is the best way to protect yourself, prevent the spread of COVID-19, and protect others.
- Asking unvaccinated campers and staff members to engage in a two-week prearrival quarantine that includes physical distancing, wearing a mask when not at home, avoiding unnecessary travel, and refraining from indoor social gatherings

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with people outside of their households.

- Asking campers and staff who are not fully vaccinated to provide proof of a negative viral test taken no more than three days before their arrival.

For more steps, see the [Summer Camp Guidance flyer](#). See more guidance on topics ranging from child care to businesses on the [COVID-19 Guidance page](#).

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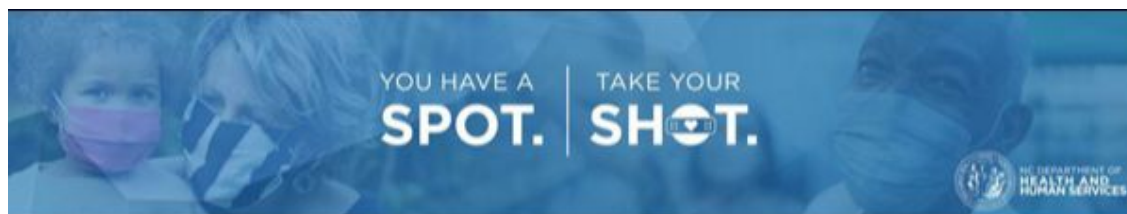
## **COVID-19 Testing**

You don't have to wonder if it's allergies, a cold, or COVID-19. Be sure and get tested. 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 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 details about a specific event, call ahead before you go for a test.

NCDHHS also [expanded](#) 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.

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.



### **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.

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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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