

Don't Wait to Vaccinate + North Carolina to Require COVID Vaccination Verification For State Employees



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

July 30, 2021

North Carolinians: Don't Wait to Vaccinate!

DON'T WAIT TO VACCINATE.

Find a vaccine location near you at MySpot.nc.gov or call 888-675-4567.

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

After months of decline, North Carolina is experiencing a [rapid increase](#) in COVID-19 cases among those who are unvaccinated.

All of the state's key metrics are increasing with hospitalizations doubling over the past two weeks, the number of people going to the emergency department with COVID-like symptoms rising, and the percent of tests that are positive well over the five percent

threshold. Our trends are accelerating at an alarmingly fast rate because of the highly contagious Delta variant.

Unvaccinated people are driving this resurgence and getting themselves and other people sick. People who are unvaccinated make up most all cases where people are getting sick and hospitalized.

Vaccinations are our only way of the pandemic. To find a vaccine location, go to [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov). Getting vaccinated prevents serious illness, hospitalizations and death and slows community spread. Rigorous clinical trials among thousands of people ages 12 and older, have proven that vaccines are safe and effective. More than 160 million Americans have been safely vaccinated.

To respond to rising COVID-19 trends, NCDHHS has updated our [guidance](#).

If you are not vaccinated, you need to continue practicing the 3 Ws. Wear a mask in all indoor public settings. Wait 6 feet apart in all public settings. Wash your hands often. In addition, you should not gather with unvaccinated people who do not live with you. If you do, stay outside and keep 6 feet apart. If you are not vaccinated, you also should not travel.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people who live in areas with [high or substantial levels of transmission](#) wear a mask when in indoor public settings - even if they are vaccinated. In NC, that is already 80% of counties.

Additionally, in accordance with the updated CDC guidance, all K-12 schools should require universal masking, regardless of vaccination status. NCDHHS [updated the guidance](#) for schools to align with this recommendation.

This moment requires action. Don't wait until you infect someone you love. [Get a vaccine today.](#)

North Carolina to Require Vaccination Verification for State Employees, Other Employers Urged to do the Same

Yesterday, Governor Cooper and NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen announced that state government would begin verifying vaccination status of its workers. Effective Sept. 1, employees who are not vaccinated are required to wear a mask and be tested at least once a week.

NCDHHS' [updated guidance](#) encourages private sector businesses to, at a minimum, verify vaccination status for their workers as well. The requirement for state government employees applies to cabinet agencies and is included in [Executive Order 224](#). Governor

Cooper encouraged other state agencies to do the same.

"There is only one way out of this pandemic and that is vaccination. Our trends are accelerating at an alarmingly fast rate and the highest rates of viral spread are happening in areas with low vaccination rates and among those who are not fully vaccinated," said Secretary Cohen. "If you are already vaccinated, I call on you to urge your unvaccinated family and friends to get their shot now. It is not an understatement to say that you will save lives by doing so."

Go [here](#) to read answers to [frequently asked questions](#) about the [Executive Order](#) .

[Get Vaccinated to Help Stop the Spread of the COVID-19 Delta Variant](#)



The Delta variant, which is more contagious than other strains, makes up most of North Carolina's COVID-19 cases. You can protect yourself from hospitalization and death and help stop how quickly severe cases are rising in our state. Don't wait to vaccinate. Find your spot at myspot.nc.gov.

[Final Your Shot at \\$1 Million Summer Cash Drawing](#)

YOUR SHOT

AT \$1 MILLION

SUMMER CASH DRAWING

The final \$1 million and college scholarship drawing and getting will occur on Wednesday, Aug. 4. and getting your shot now gets you entered twice. New entries close at midnight on Sunday, Aug. 1.

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 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 to win \$125,000 toward post-secondary education, awarded by funding a savings account in the NC 529 Plan.

Some eligibility restrictions may apply. See the [official rules](#) for details. Learn more at [SummerVaxCash.com](#).

NC Rural Hospitals Receive More Than \$4.9 Million for COVID Testing and Mitigation

North Carolina has [received more than \\$4.9 million federal funds](#) for small rural hospitals in the state to provide COVID-19 testing and mitigation. The program will provide increased COVID-19 testing to rural populations, ensuring an equitable distribution across the state.

Nineteen hospitals will receive up to \$258,376 to increase COVID-19 testing efforts, expand access to testing in rural communities and expand the range of COVID-19 mitigation activities to meet community needs. All 19 hospitals have fewer than 50 beds or are critical access hospitals.

In many small rural hospitals, COVID-19 testing, vaccinations and treatment add an additional workload for already limited staff and resources. Targeted support is necessary for rural communities to overcome barriers toward achieving and maintaining high

COVID-19 testing rates.

[NCDHHS Expands COVID-19 Community Health Worker Program](#)

NCDHHS is expanding the COVID-19 [Community Health Worker program](#), bringing it statewide.

El Centro Latino and UNETE join six other vendors that were previously selected for this work – Catawba County Public Health, Kepro, Mount Calvary Center for Leadership Development, One to One with Youth, Southeastern Healthcare NC and Vidant Health – to aid in North Carolina's efforts to connect those affected by COVID-19 with needed support, including assistance with COVID-19 vaccinations.

Community Health Workers provide education and support to their communities to increase COVID-19 vaccinations. Such assistance includes helping people with scheduling appointments and finding transportation to vaccination sites. They also connect North Carolinians affected by COVID-19 with medical and social support, including diagnostic testing, primary care, case management, nutrition assistance and behavioral health services.

To learn more about Community Health Workers, go to the [NCDHHS website](#).

[COVID-19 Testing](#)

With COVID-19 cases on the rise it's important that 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](#). You can find testing sites by using the [Find My Testing Place](#) tool online.

For an up-to-date list of no-cost community testing events, visit the [No-Cost Testing Events](#) webpage. Additionally, all North Carolinians can request a free at-home COVID-19 testing kit. [Learn more](#).

[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

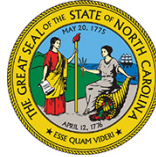
your shot, [videos](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.

- Follow NCDHHS on [social media](#) for advance notice of press briefings and a recap.



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Roy Cooper, Governor | Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary
Amy Dominello Braun, Interim Communications Director

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

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