

Vaccination Urged as COVID Hospitalizations Reach All-Time Highs + Pace of Vaccinations Accelerating as Delta Variant Spreads



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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Aug. 13, 2021

[Health Officials Urge Vaccination as COVID Hospitalizations Hit All-Time Highs](#)

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.**



This week, North Carolina [experienced the largest single day jump in hospital Intensive Care Unit \(ICU\) admissions](#) since the beginning of the pandemic. Additionally, weekly COVID-19 hospitalizations among people ages 20-49 are at an all-time high.

On Aug. 9, ICU admissions related to COVID-19 jumped to 557 from 502 the day prior. From Aug. 3 through Aug. 9, there were 547 people ages 20-49 admitted to the hospital due to COVID-19. Overall, 2,179 people were hospitalized due to COVID-19, with 272 people admitted during a 24-hour period, according to [data](#) reported to NCDHHS.

Due to the highly contagious Delta variant, North Carolina's other key COVID-19 metrics are also increasing, including the percent of tests that are positive — which has been over 10% for nearly two weeks. Hospitalizations have more than doubled since July 27 and are at the highest they have been since Feb. 11, 2021.

In addition to getting [vaccinated](#), NCDHHS recommends everyone wear a mask in indoor public spaces if you live in area of high or substantial levels of transmission [as defined by the CDC](#) until more people are vaccinated and viral transmission decreases. In North Carolina, that is all 100 counties.

To find a vaccine in your area, use the Find a Vaccine Location tool at MySpot.nc.gov or call 888-675-4567. You can also text your zip code to 438829 to find vaccine locations near you.

[Pace of Vaccinations Accelerating as Delta Variant Spreads](#)

North Carolina providers have [now administered](#) more than 10 million doses of [COVID-19 vaccine](#), with vaccinations trending upward as the highly contagious Delta variant of the

virus spreads through the state

COVID-19 vaccines are tested, safe and have been shown to be highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Sixty-three percent of adults 18 and older in the state have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while 58% of the adult population is fully vaccinated against the virus.

In the last two weeks, overall doses administered for COVID-19 vaccines are up more than 16% and first doses have increased more than 30%.

Free COVID-19 vaccines are widely available across the state to anyone 12 and older. To get a vaccine near you, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://mySpot.nc.gov) or call 888-675-4567. You can also text your zip code to 438829 to find vaccine locations near you.

\$100 Cards Available for First-time COVID-19 Vaccinations, \$25 Cards for Drivers



To help more North Carolinians protect themselves against COVID-19 and the highly contagious Delta variant, North Carolina is [now offering](#) \$100 [Summer Cards](#)* at some vaccine sites across the state to offset the time and transportation costs of getting vaccinated.

The \$100 Summer Cards* are available now through Aug. 31 to anyone 18 and older who gets their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at a participating site—while supplies last.

In addition to providing a \$100 Summer Card* to those who get their first dose of vaccine, North Carolina continues to offer \$25 Summer Cards to those who drive others to their vaccination appointment.

Those interested in the \$100 Summer Card* for first-time vaccinations and \$25 Summer Card* for drivers should call 888-675-4567 or find a participating location [here](#). Locations are only offering cards on the dates shown.

Summer Card providers have a limited number of \$100 cards. Cards are available while supplies last and are only available on the dates shown.

**Summer Card is in the form of a Prepaid Mastercard®. Prepaid card is issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC.*

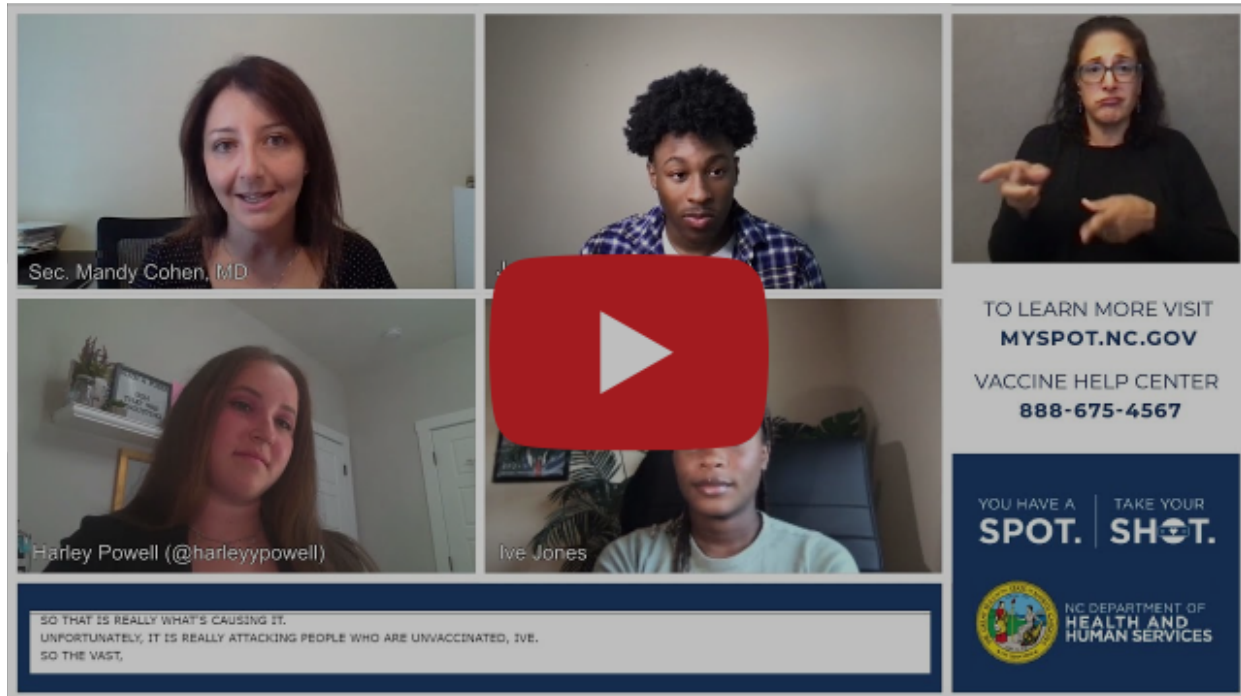
[New CDC Data: COVID-19 Vaccination Safe for Pregnant People](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [released new data](#) on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant people and is recommending all people 12 years of age and older get vaccinated against COVID-19.

"CDC encourages all pregnant people or people who are thinking about becoming pregnant and those breastfeeding to get vaccinated to protect themselves from COVID-19," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. "The vaccines are safe and effective, and it has never been more urgent to increase vaccinations as we face the highly transmissible Delta variant and see severe outcomes from COVID-19 among unvaccinated pregnant people."

Clinicians have seen the number of pregnant people infected with COVID-19 rise in the past several weeks. The increased circulation of the highly contagious [Delta variant](#), the [low vaccine uptake among pregnant people](#), and the increased risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19 infection among pregnant people make vaccination for this population more urgent than ever.

Fireside Chat on COVID-19 Vaccines for Young Adults



NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen recently hosted a [fireside chat](#) with TikTok stars Joshua Cureton and Harley Powell, with Ive Jones moderating, to talk about it's so important that young adults get vaccinated against COVID-19.

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](#), the [latest guidance](#) and more.

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- 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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