

## CDC Study Shows Vaccination Offers Strong Protection Against COVID + Get Your Flu Vaccine!



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# COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

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*Sept. 17, 2021*

**CDC Study: Fully Vaccinated Had 10 Times Lower Risk of COVID  
Hospitalization, Death**

**After Delta became the most common variant,\*  
fully vaccinated people had reduced risk<sup>†</sup> of...**



A [new study](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that people who were fully vaccinated had more than 10 times lower risk of being hospitalized or dying with COVID-19 compared with people who were not fully vaccinated.

The CDC looked at COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths among people 18 years and older by vaccination status reported from April 4 through July 17, 2021. Researchers looked at data from 13 public health jurisdictions, including North Carolina that represent about one-quarter of the U.S. population. The study confirmed that even during times when the Delta variant was circulating widely, vaccines provided continued strong protection against COVID-19–related hospitalization and death.

The best way to protect yourself and those around you is to get vaccinated. To get a vaccine near you, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) (English) or [Vacunate.nc.gov](https://www.vacunante.nc.gov) (Spanish) or call 888-675-4567. You can also text your zip code to 438829 to find vaccine locations near you.

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## **Healthier Together Announces Additional \$500K in Grants to Support Equitable COVID-19 Response in North Carolina**

[Healthier Together](#), a public-private partnership between the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Counts Coalition, released the second round of funding of up to \$500,000 for community-based organizations to [apply for grants](#) to help North Carolina achieve its goal of delivering equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. Grants will range from \$10,000–\$25,000 each (or up to \$60,000 for collaborative proposals).

Healthier Together will award grants for short-term vaccine equity initiatives from November 2021 to February 2022. Funds will be awarded to organizations supporting North Carolina communities that experience health inequities, with a focus on ensuring Black/African-American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Latinx/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and high-poverty and low-wealth communities are able to access COVID-19 vaccines. The application period opened Sept. 15, 2021 and ends Oct. 6, 2021.

During the [first round of funding](#), which ran from June 1 until Aug. 31, 2021, the 27 Healthier Together grantees reached more than 400,000 people in 50 North Carolina counties through door-to-door and site-based canvassing, phone and text message outreach, and educational events about COVID-19 vaccines.

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## **Health Officials Urge North Carolinians to Get Vaccinated for Flu as COVID-19 Cases Remain High**

Public health officials in NCDHHS are [urging North Carolinians](#) to protect themselves, their families and those around them by getting vaccinated against [Influenza](#) as the state enters flu season while experiencing a surge of COVID-19 caused by the Delta variant.

Flu vaccinations are available at hospitals, pharmacies, private medical offices, some

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federally qualified health care centers and local health departments. COVID-19 vaccines [may now be administered](#) at the same time as other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, for those who need both. This fall and winter – don't wait to vaccinate for flu and COVID-19.

The [Respiratory Surveillance Report](#) provides updates on flu and COVID-19 surveillance data. Beginning Oct. 8 and through the flu season, flu data from around the state will be included in addition to data on COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

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### **North Carolina Increasing Capacity to Offer Monoclonal Antibody Therapy for COVID-19**



**Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms?  
Exposed to COVID-19?**

While vaccines offer the best protection from COVID-19, monoclonal antibodies may help.

**LEARN MORE + FIND TREATMENT:**

1-877-332-6585 (English)



1-877-366-0310 (Spanish)

NCDHHS [announced](#) four new locations offering [monoclonal antibodies \(mAbs\) for treatment of COVID-19](#) managed by local organizations in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, bringing the number of sites in the state offering this therapy to more than 200. FEMA will also help staff one existing site. This partnership will give more North Carolinians access to monoclonal antibody treatment, which can

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decrease the likelihood of hospitalization related to COVID-19 if taken early.

The four new sites, which are all operational as of the afternoon on Sept. 17, are located in Harnett, Johnston, Robeson and Wilkes counties. Listed below are the new sites and information about how people can make appointments, which are required:

- Wilkes County: The Health Foundation in North Wilkesboro. Call 336-528-1637 or fill out this [form](#).
- Johnston County: Smithfield Hospital Campus in Smithfield. Call 919-268-1621.
- Harnett County: Central Carolina Community College Harnett Health Sciences Center in Lillington. Call 910-893-0653.
- Robeson County: UNC-Southeastern Ambulatory Care Center in Lumberton.  
Referrals based on a positive COVID-19 test are required for this location.

In addition, FEMA-contracted health care staff are providing surge capacity for an existing monoclonal antibody clinic at Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital in Murphy in Cherokee County.

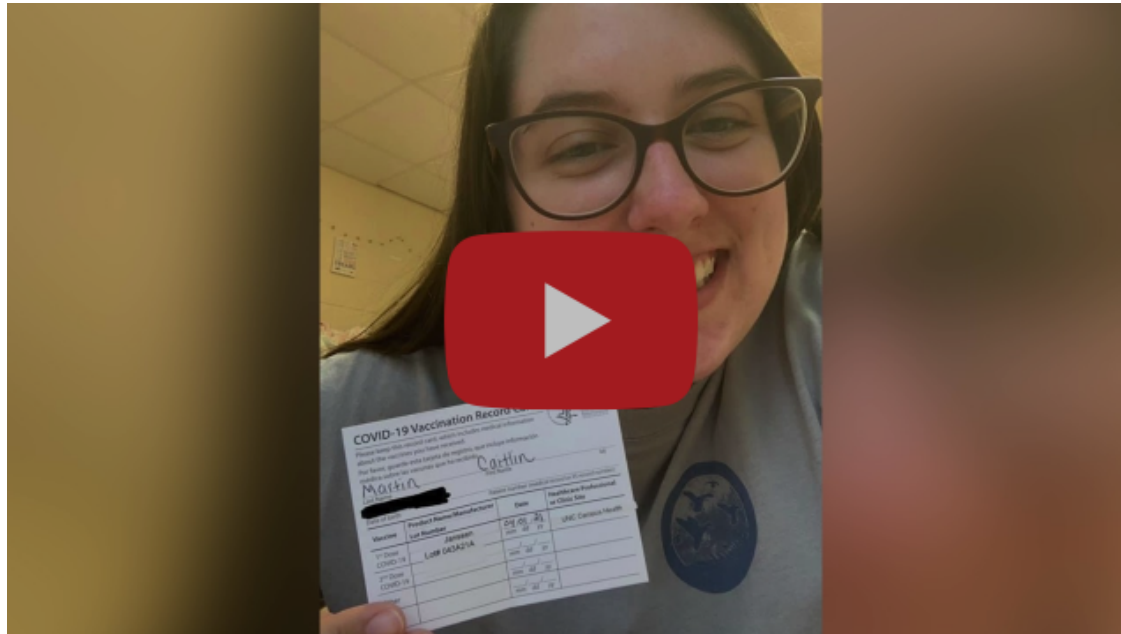
Appointments are required, but patients who qualify for treatment do not need a referral from a health care provider for sites other than Robeson County if they meet medical screening criteria when setting up their appointment. ID is not required to receive treatment at the FEMA-supported sites.

The federal government is providing monoclonal antibody therapy at no cost to patients. However, health care providers may charge an administration fee for treatment. Medicare and many commercial insurance companies are covering all costs for patients. Check with your health plan to learn more about treatment costs.

People who believe they may be eligible for treatment should ask their health care provider about monoclonal antibodies or call the Combat COVID Monoclonal Antibodies Call Center at [1-877-332-6585](tel:1-877-332-6585) (English) or [1-877-366-0310](tel:1-877-366-0310) (Spanish). **The call center can assist people who do not have a health care provider.** More information, including answers to frequently asked questions about monoclonal antibody treatments, is available at [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/treatment](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/treatment).

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## NC American Indian Leaders Are Asking You to Get a COVID-19 Vaccination



North Carolina has the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River and the eighth-largest Indian population in the United States. It's time for everyone to protect the ones they love by getting their COVID-19 vaccine. Find your spot to get vaccinated at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://MySpot.nc.gov).

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## COVID-19 Testing

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to the virus should get tested as soon as possible. To find a testing site near you, visit [ncdhhs.gov/GetTested](https://ncdhhs.gov/GetTested).

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**People who are not experiencing serious symptoms should not go to the emergency department for routine COVID-19 testing.** People should seek medical attention immediately for serious symptoms such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.

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.](#)

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### **Get the Latest Information**

- Visit the [NCDHHS COVID-19 website](#) for information, a [data dashboard](#), [updates](#), [live briefings](#), the [latest guidance](#) 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](#).



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