

Layer Your Protections this Fall with COVID, Flu Vaccines + \$805 Million in New Funding for Early Care Programs



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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Oct. 8, 2021

Layer Your Protections this Fall with COVID, Flu Vaccines

Yesterday, NCDHHS announced [a significant milestone](#) in the fight against COVID: 70% of North Carolinians age 18 and older have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. If you haven't gotten your COVID-19 vaccine yet, now is the time!

COVID-19 [vaccines](#) offer significant protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death. People who are not fully vaccinated are more than [18 times](#) more likely to die from COVID-19 than people who are fully vaccinated.

This protection will be strengthened and extended through [booster](#) shots for people who are 65 and over, have a high-risk medical condition, work in higher risk settings or live or work in a place where many people work together. Boosters are currently available for people who received their second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least six months ago.

Visit MySpot.nc.gov for more COVID-19 information and updates and to find a vaccine location near you.

You can also protect yourself, your family and those around you this flu season by [getting your flu shot](#). COVID-19 vaccines [may now be administered](#) at the same time as other

vaccines, including the flu vaccine, for those who need both. Flu vaccinations are available at hospitals, pharmacies, private medical offices, some federally qualified health care centers and local health departments.

Governor Cooper Announces \$805 Million in New Funding for Early Care and Learning Programs



Photo credit: Julia Wall, News & Observer

Yesterday, Governor Roy Cooper visited and toured the Community School for People Under Six in Carrboro where he [announced a historic, one-time federal \\$805 million investment](#) in North Carolina's early care and learning child care programs.

The North Carolina Child Care Stabilization Grants, made possible by funding from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, will support working families with access to high-quality, affordable child care. The grants will also help early care and learning programs with recruitment and retention, enabling them to provide better wages and benefits to teachers, and promoting equity for all—children, parents and teachers.

Administered by NCDHHS' Division of Child Development and Early Education, the application for Child Care Stabilization Grants application launches on Oct. 11. All private, licensed early care and learning programs are eligible to apply, including for-profit and not-for-profit, family child care homes, and faith-based centers. To learn more about the grants and apply after Oct. 11, visit ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov.

Secretary Cohen Receives Education Award for Pandemic Work

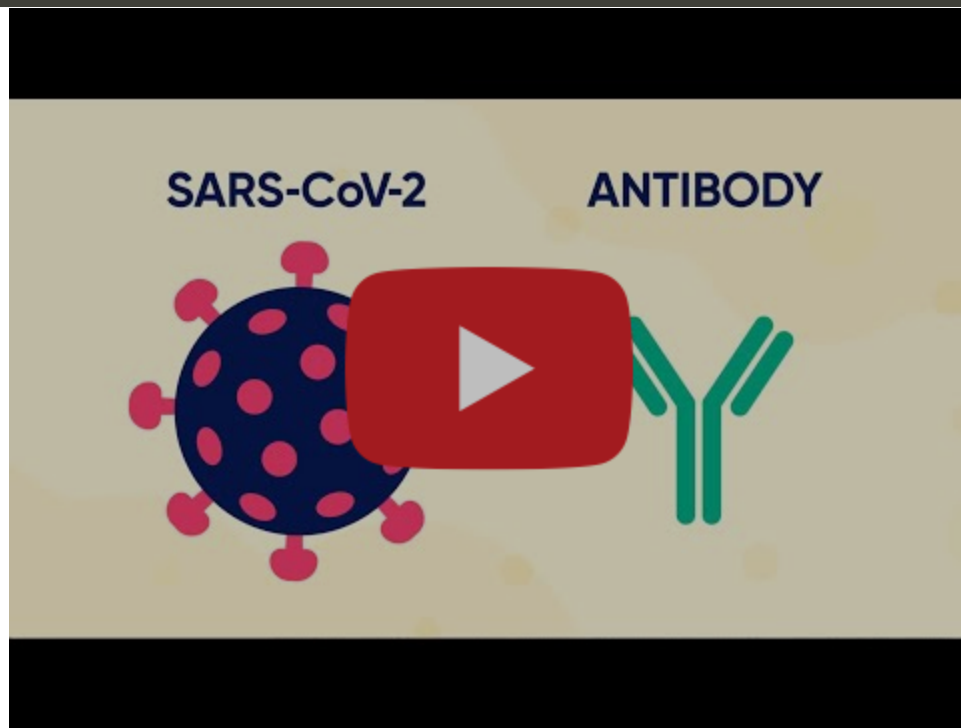


NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, MD, received the [Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award](#) for her outstanding leadership and transparency during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June 2020, NCDHHS developed the [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#) to help schools and education leaders plan and implement protocols to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Because North Carolina schools have adhered to these protocols, they have succeeded in limiting the transmission of the virus.

Beyond her ongoing COVID-19 response work, Secretary Cohen remains focused on key initiatives, including a nationally recognized [Early Childhood Action Plan](#) with ambitious health equity goals and the expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina. Watch [a video](#) about the recognition and [read more](#).

Monoclonal Antibody Therapy for COVID-19



Monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapy is a promising form of treatment for COVID-19. People who have experienced the onset of mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms in the past 10 days, have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days, and are at high risk for developing more serious symptoms may qualify for mAb therapy. To learn more, go to the covid19.ncdhhs.gov/treatment.

[Governor Discusses Impact of COVID-19 on LatinX Community](#)



This week, Governor Roy Cooper [held a roundtable discussion](#) to hear from health care and community leaders about the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Hispanic/Latinx communities and thank leaders for their dedication.

The governor also signed an [Executive Order](#) to extend the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. The Cooper administration has worked hard to ensure that Spanish-speaking communities have access to credible information about coronavirus and resources as well as equitable access to vaccines. The governor's COVID-19 briefings are translated in Spanish and NCDHHS launched a Spanish language vaccine website, [Vacunate.nc.gov](#).

[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](#).

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](#).

[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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