

# Nearly All Staff in State Operated Healthcare Facilities Fully Vaccinated + COVID-19 Dashboard Team Receives National IT Innovation Award



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## COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

*Oct. 15, 2021*

### **Nearly All Staff in State Operated Healthcare Facilities Fully Vaccinated**

Nearly [all 10,000 employees at state-operated healthcare facilities](#) are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and compliant with a mandatory vaccination requirement. NCDHHS' Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities (DSOHF), a state-operated health care system comprised of 14 facilities, moved to mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in July.

COVID-19 [vaccines](#) offer significant protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death. People who are not fully vaccinated are [20 times](#) more likely to die from COVID-19 than people who are fully vaccinated.

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](#) or call 888-675-4567. You can also text your zip code to 438829 to find vaccine locations near you.

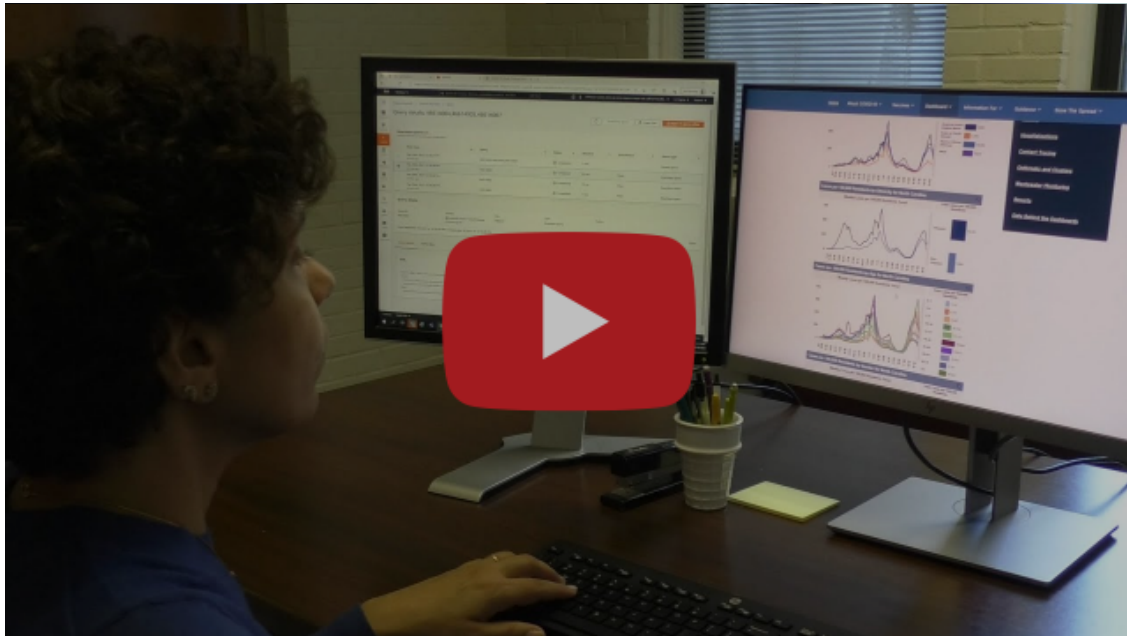
You can also protect yourself, your family and those around you this flu season by [getting your flu shot](#). COVID-19 vaccines [may now be administered](#) at the same time as other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, for those who need both. Flu vaccinations are available at hospitals, pharmacies, private medical offices, some federally qualified health

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care centers and local health departments.

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## COVID-19 Dashboard Team Receives National IT Innovation Award, Expands Demographic Data



NCDHHS and the NC Department of Information Technology were [recently honored](#) at the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) annual conference with the Data Management, Analytics and Visualization award for its [Business Intelligence Data Platform \(BIDP\)](#): "Bridging the Data Divide and Bringing Health Equity."

BIDP allowed NCDHHS to break out COVID-19 case counts by demographics, which helped to further shine a light on the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has on historically marginalized populations. The platform helped the department prioritize data transparency, drive accountability, promote equity and guide its decision-making during the pandemic.

This week, NCDHHS further expanded its [vaccine data dashboard](#) to provide more statewide demographic data for COVID-19 vaccinations. Users will be able to see vaccination rates by race for age groups and ethnicity for age group. The information will be displayed on a new tab named "Additional NC Demographic Data" on the dashboard and will provide further insight into race, age and ethnicity.

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## **NC Pediatrician: Why All Eligible School-Age Kids Should Get the COVID Vaccine**

In an [op-ed](#), Dr. David T. Tayloe, Jr., a Goldsboro pediatrician and past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the N.C. Pediatric Society, explains why children ages 5 and up should receive the COVID-19 vaccine after it is authorized and found to be safe and effective by the FDA and CDC.

In the coming weeks, independent vaccine advisory committees of CDC and FDA experts will meet to consider the safety, effectiveness and need factors for giving the vaccine to children ages 5 to 11 — meaning that nearly every child in the school-aged population could soon be eligible to receive it.

The FDA advisory committee meets Oct. 26, and this week the White House told governors to begin preparing to vaccinate children ages 5-11 by early November, pending FDA authorization.

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## **Clinical Trails to Combat COVID-19**



Watch this video to learn about the incredible, real-life story of one Latina woman's decision to act fast and join a clinical trial that kept her out of the hospital when she tested positive and got sick with COVID-19. Get [information](#) about the latest treatment options available so you can recover faster if you get sick with COVID-19.

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## **COVID-19 Testing**

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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).

**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.
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