

Vaccinations, Boosters Encouraged as COVID Trends Improve + Info on COVID Vaccines for Ages 5-11



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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Oct. 29, 2021

[Vaccinations, Boosters Encouraged as COVID-19 Trends Continue to Improve](#)

DON'T WAIT TO VACCINATE.

Find a vaccine location near you at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) or call 888-675-4567.

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

North Carolina's COVID-19 numbers have [continued to steadily improve](#) due to North Carolinians choosing to get vaccinated and follow [COVID safety protocols](#). We need to keep working to continue the downward trend, because hospitalizations and deaths are still too high.

If you still haven't gotten your shot, the time is now. This vaccine is safe, effective and free. In North Carolina, people who are unvaccinated are 20 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than people who are vaccinated.

And if you're already vaccinated, [booster shots are now widely available](#) to extend and increase your protection. The CDC recommends boosters for everyone who received the Johnson & Johnson shot more than two months ago. The Pfizer and Moderna boosters are recommended for individuals who received their second dose at least six months ago and who are at high risk for severe illness or exposure based on their age, profession, living setting or health conditions.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines or to find a vaccine location, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov) or call the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center for free at 888-675-4567.

[COVID Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11](#)



Children ages 5-11 may soon have a spot to take their shot. Children are vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, just like everyone else, and some infected children are experiencing long-term side effects of COVID-19.

With the most recent surge, pediatric cases of COVID-19 rose by about 240% in the U.S., showing the need to protect children with a safe and effective vaccine. Getting school-age kids vaccinated will help them to be safe in the classroom, play sports, attend events, be with friends and support their mental health.

An independent advisory panel to the FDA unanimously recommended this week the use of a lower dose of the Pfizer vaccine in children ages 5 to 11. The FDA and CDC will complete a thorough review process to ensure it is safe and effective for children.

DHHS will not make any recommendations on child vaccination until this process is completed. The earliest vaccine will be available for children is Nov. 5. Once the CDC recommends vaccines for ages 5 to 11, there will be supply at more than 750 locations statewide. Family vaccination sites are also being set up across the state so that every child has a spot to take their shot.

Go to the [NCDHHS COVID-19 website](#) for more information and to sign-up to receive updates on the COVID vaccine for this age group.

Take Precautions this Halloween and Have Fun!



This Halloween, follow these easy [tips](#) to stay safe and avoid COVID-19. Here's what trick-or-treaters, their friends and family, and others in the community should remember:

1. **Do** incorporate a cloth or surgical mask into your costume, and **don't** use a costume mask as a substitute for a cloth or surgical mask.
2. **Outdoors** is safer than **indoors**, and stay home if you're feeling sick. Trick-or-treat in small groups outdoors or enjoy other outdoor activities, and avoid crowded indoor parties.
3. **Wash your hands** before eating candy.
4. Track **local** virus transmission rates: take extra precautions where rates are high. Transmission rates are high in most North Carolina counties.

Get **vaccinated**: Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](#) to find a location. Adults and children age 12 and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine, and everyone should get a flu shot.

NCDHHS Signs Health Equity Pledge to Address Disparities

NCDHHS has [joined approximately 40 cross-sector health care organizations](#) committed

to using and sharing high-level data about race, ethnicity, language and gender to inform best practices to promote health equity.

COVID-19 shed new light on the historical and on-going systemic disparities in the U.S. health care system, many of which were worsened because of the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, NCDHHS has prioritized data transparency to promote equity in the COVID-19 prevention and response efforts.

NCDHHS requires reporting race and ethnicity data for all COVID-19 vaccinations and [monoclonal antibody treatment](#), resulting in North Carolina being nationally [recognized](#) for its vaccination equity data. Most recently, NCDHHS [expanded demographic data available on its public dashboard](#) to help identify equity gaps by race/ethnicity and age.

NCDHHS is proud to join in the effort to dismantle barriers to data collection and drive adoption of consistent data standards to improve review of health disparities data and drive solutions.

[Evaluation Finds Financial Incentive Program Effective](#)



According to a published research letter by authors from NCDHHS and North Carolina university partners, NCDHHS' \$25 Summer Card pilot program was [successful in encouraging COVID-19 vaccination](#).

During the one-week review period, COVID-19 vaccinations decreased by just 26% in clinics offering the \$25 cards that were part of the review, but declined by 51% elsewhere. Of 401 vaccine recipients surveyed, 41% reported the \$25 card was an important reason why they decided to get vaccinated.

[N.C. HOPE Program Still Accepting Applications](#)

This month, the HOPE program marked its one-year anniversary with more than \$500 million in pandemic relief funds awarded to landlords and utilities to prevent evictions and keep the lights on for hard-hit families. The HOPE program supports housing stability during the pandemic by preventing evictions and utility service disconnections.

HOPE is still accepting applications for rent and utility bill assistance from low-income renters [in 88 counties](#). Applicants can apply online at [HOPE.NC.gov](#) or call 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Both English- and Spanish-speaking representatives are available to assist callers. To learn more, visit [HOPE.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.](#)

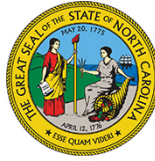
[Get the Latest Information](#)

- 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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