

Updates Made to StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit + NC National Guard Supports Alamance Regional Medical Center



From NCDHHS Communications <news@dhhs.nc.gov>
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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

Feb. 11, 2022

[Updated StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit Focuses on Most Effective Strategies to Keep Students in the Classroom](#)



#StayStrongNC

StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)

INTERIM GUIDANCE

Originally Published June 2020 • **Updated February 10, 2022**

Effective Date: February 21, 2022

Updates have been made to the [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#) focusing on strategies that are most effective at this stage of the pandemic, like [vaccines](#), [boosters](#), [testing](#) and [masking](#), and no longer recommending individual contact tracing in K-12

schools.

Additionally, NCDHHS recommends students and staff no longer be required to stay home from school following a COVID-19 exposure, unless they have symptoms or test positive. Similar updates will be made to the [ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit](#). Updates for both toolkits will go into effect Feb. 21, 2022.

Although exclusion from school is no longer recommended following an exposure, notification of potential exposure is recommended. The [updated toolkit](#) includes options for schools to notify potentially exposed students or staff when a COVID-19 case is identified in the school setting. Local schools and health departments may opt to continue contact tracing; NCDHHS has provided suggested strategies in the toolkit for schools to consider based on local conditions. [Read more](#).

[NC National Guard to Support Alamance Regional Medical Center Amid Omicron Surge](#)

The North Carolina National Guard (NCNG) [deployed guard members](#) to Alamance Regional Medical Center, part of the Cone Health System, in Burlington, N.C. to support staff and hospital operations. The 25 NCNG soldiers and airmen arrived on Feb. 10 and will remain onsite until March 4.

[COVID-19 cases](#) are declining and [hospitalizations](#) are starting to show downward trends. However, the recent Omicron wave strained many hospital systems across the state. This assistance from the NCNG will help Alamance Regional staff who are still experiencing a high caseload from the surge and are navigating staff shortages.

[File Your Federal Income Taxes by April 18 to Access Full Benefits of the Child Tax Credit](#)

The Child Tax Credit

 **\$3,000 to \$3,600 per child**
for nearly all working families

 **File your taxes by April 18, 2022**
to get your CTC and other tax benefits

#GetYourTaxCredits and learn more at

ChildTaxCredit.gov



With tax season quickly approaching, North Carolina families are encouraged to [file their federal income taxes](#) to ensure they access their full, expanded [Child Tax Credit](#), as well as other federal benefits. The Child Tax Credit is fully refundable, meaning that even families who owe little or no federal tax should still file to get their credits.

The Child Tax Credit was increased and expanded in 2021 by the American Rescue Plan, and most families are [eligible to receive](#) the credit for their children. For families with children, the 2021 Child Tax Credit is \$3,000-\$3,600 per child, based on their age. Most people need to file a tax return before **April 18, 2022**, to receive their full credit this year.

Visit [ChildTaxCredit.gov](#) for tools and help with filing. [Read more.](#)

[COVID-19 Testing](#)

You should get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible if you have symptoms, and after five days if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19. 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.

- NC Medicaid beneficiaries can [receive free at-home COVID-19 tests](#) from their local pharmacies. Beneficiaries should select an at-home test at their preferred pharmacy and present their NC Medicaid ID card to the pharmacy for no out-of-pocket cost. The pharmacist will be able to bill Medicaid on the patient's behalf.
- Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four, free at-home COVID-19 tests. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them at covidtests.gov.
- To find a PCR testing sites near you, visit ncdhhs.gov/GetTested. With increased demand for testing, try a different community-based site if your normal one is busy.
- For an up-to-date list of no-cost community testing events, visit the [No-Cost Testing Events](#) webpage.

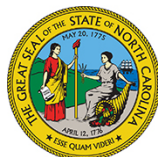
[Get the Latest Information](#)

- 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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