Second COVID Boosters Available for Certain Groups + Gov. Cooper Signs EO to Extend Health Care Flexibilities for Continued COVID Response



From NCDHHS Communications <news@dhhs.nc.gov>

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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) **NC UPDATE**

April 8, 2022

Second COVID Booster Shots Available for Certain Groups



SPOT.

Second COVID-19 Booster Shots Now Available.

You can get a second booster if you got your first booster 4+ months ago and if any of the following apply to you:

are age 12+ and immunocompromised

⊘ are age 50+

got a total of two J&J vaccine doses

Talk to a healthcare provider if you have questions. Visit **MySpot.nc.gov**.

4/9/22, 9:06 PM 1 of 4

Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order Extending Health Care Flexibilities to Prepare for Continued COVID Response

On April 1, Governor Cooper signed <u>Executive Order 256</u> to support the state's ongoing fight against COVID-19 by providing flexibility for health care workers and care facilities, as well as easier access to vaccines, tests and treatments. The regulatory waivers in the Order are key to facilitating the state's COVID-19 response at this phase of the pandemic.

As we <u>move forward together</u> into the next phase of the pandemic, North Carolina will continue to prepare for the possibility of future surges.

The Order extends provisions giving the NCDHHS Secretary flexibility to take actions to increase the health care workforce and to ensure continuity of existing operations in the state's hospitals, adult care homes, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities.

The Order also extends direction for the State Health Director to issue statewide standing orders to facilitate COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 vaccination, and the administration of therapeutic treatments designed to treat COVID-19, including monoclonal antibody treatments and newly authorized therapeutic treatments. The Order received concurrence from the Council of State.

Get Vaccinated & Boosted to Protect Yourself Against COVID-19



Just a like seatbelt, the COVID-19 vaccine protects you from hospitalization and death. Go to MySpot.NC.gov to schedule your vaccine or booster today.

2 of 4 4/9/22, 9:06 PM

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 <u>receive free at-home COVID-19 tests</u> 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-ofpocket cost. The pharmacist will be able to bill Medicaid on the patient's behalf.
- Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order two sets of four, free at-home COVID-19 tests. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them at <u>covidtests.gov</u>.
- To find a PCR testing site near you, visit ncdhhs.gov/GetTested.
- For an up-to-date list of no-cost community testing events, visit the <u>No-Cost</u> <u>Testing Events</u> webpage.

COVID-19 Treatments

Have <u>symptoms</u>? Don't wait. COVID-19 <u>treatments</u> can lower your risk of hospitalization or death.

- Talk to your doctor about treatment.
- To find treatment options, go to <u>covid19.ncdhhs.gov/FindTreatment</u>.
- Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489) to find out more about treatment. The call center can help if you do not have a health care provider. This line can accept callers in 150 languages, including English and Spanish.

Treatments are not a substitute for <u>vaccination</u>. Vaccines offer the best protection against COVID-19.

Spread the word about FDA authorized treatments for COVID-19 by sharing this flyer.

Get the Latest Information

- Visit the <u>NCDHHS COVID-19 website</u> for information, a <u>data dashboard</u>, <u>updates</u>, <u>live briefings</u>, the <u>latest guidance</u> 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

3 of 4 4/9/22, 9:06 PM

your shot, videos about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.

- Follow NCDHHS on social media.
- View your vaccine information (English, Spanish).









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4 of 4 4/9/22, 9:06 PM