

Health Officials Encourage People with COVID-19 to Seek Treatment Right Away + Gov. Offers Bonus Leave for Employees Who Receive First Booster



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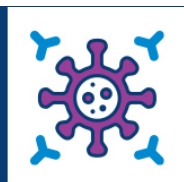
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COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

May 6, 2022

[Health Officials Encourage North Carolinians with COVID-19 to Seek Treatment Right Away](#)



Experiencing symptoms?

COVID-19 treatments may help.

Gov. Roy Cooper and state health officials are [encouraging North Carolinians to seek treatment quickly](#) if they get sick with COVID-19. FDA authorized treatments that can lower the risk of hospitalization and death are widely available. These treatments must be administered early, some within 5 days, and can only be prescribed by a medical professional.

Treatments are available for people who are [high risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19. [About two thirds](#) of adult North Carolinians are considered high risk, including older adults, pregnant people and people with certain medical conditions such as obesity, asthma, diabetes or depression. [Learn more about the factors that may put you at risk.](#)

COVID-19 often begins with mild respiratory symptoms that feel like a cold or flu, but symptoms may get worse. If you think you might have COVID-19, [get tested](#) as soon as possible. Stay away from others except to get medical care. Here are three ways to access treatment, which requires a prescription:

- [Find a Test to Treat location](#) to get treatment immediately after a positive test, even if you do not have insurance or a regular doctor.
- Talk to your health care provider about treatment.
- Call [1-800-232-0233](#) (TTY [888-720-7489](#)).

Treatments are not a substitute for vaccination. Being up-to-date on vaccines, including boosters, offers the best protection from serious illness, hospitalization and death, and new research shows this protects against long COVID as well. For more information and to find a vaccine location near you, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](#) or [Vacunate.nc.gov](#).

COVID-19 Tele-Town Hall May 11



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

YOU HAVE A
SPOT. TAKE YOUR
SHOT.

Join us live and on [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)

COVID-19 Fireside Chat & Tele-town Hall: Testing, Long COVID, Treatments & More

Wed., May 11 | 6 to 7 p.m.

Topics will include:

- free COVID-19 tests and testing locations
- long COVID symptoms and side effects
- COVID-19 treatment options and locations
- staying up-to-date on vaccines and boosters
- vaccines and boosters for pregnant women



Featuring:

Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, MD
NC State Health Director and
Chief Medical Officer, NCDHHS



Tracei Ball, MD
Pediatrician and Chief Medical Officer,
OnCall Mobile Medical and Wellness

Submit questions live [f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [p](#) (855) 756-7520, Ext. 80957#

ASL Interpreters and Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) captioning will be provided.

Gov. Cooper Offers Bonus Leave to State Employees Who Receive First COVID Booster Shot

Gov. Roy Cooper signed an [Executive Order](#) that encourages eligible state employees to

get their COVID-19 booster shot and [rewards them with a day of vacation leave](#). The Order provides up to eight hours of fully paid leave to eligible state employees who, on or before August 31, 2022, provide their agency with documentation of receiving a first booster for COVID-19.

The paid leave is available not only to employees who receive their first booster shot between May 4 and August 31, but also to employees who have already received their first booster shot. Employees will have until March 31, 2023 to use the extra leave.

People who are vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 are less likely to become severely ill and die from COVID-19. Booster shots protect the health of state employees, protect the health of state facility visitors and residents, and reduce lost work time due to illness.

[Vaccines Keep Us All Safe and Healthy](#)



Vaccines keep us safe and healthy. Get your COVID-19 vaccine today to protect yourself and the ones you love. Go to MySpot.NC.gov to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine or booster today.

[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 two sets of 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 site near you, visit ncdhhs.gov/GetTested.
- For an up-to-date list of no-cost community testing events, visit the [No-Cost Testing Events](#) webpage.

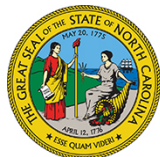
Get the Latest Information

- 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](#).
- View your vaccine information ([English](#), [Spanish](#)).



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NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
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Roy Cooper, Governor | Kody H. Kinsley, Secretary

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