

COVID-19 Updates:

Sept 1, 2020

Governor Cooper moved NC to Phase 2.5 of reopening:

Phase 2.5 means the following for North Carolina:

- Mass gathering limits will increase to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors from the current limit of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors.
- Playgrounds may open.
- Museums and aquariums may open at 50% capacity.
- Gyms and indoor exercise facilities, such as yoga studios, martial arts, and rock climbing, as well as skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor basketball, volleyball etc., may open at 30% capacity.
- Bars, nightclubs, movie theaters, indoor entertainment facilities, amusement parks, dance halls will remain closed.
- Large venues remain subject to the mass gathering limits.
- In addition, NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen issued a Secretarial Order allowing for outdoor visitation at nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities. To participate, nursing homes must meet several requirements, including, but not limited, not having a current outbreak, having a testing plan and updated written Infection Control or Preparedness plan for COVID-19, and having adequate personal protective equipment. The Secretarial Order is effective as of September 4 at 5 PM and remains in effect through September 22, 2020.

For more information:

<https://governor.nc.gov/news/north-carolina-move-phase-25>

Aug 5, 2020

- Governor Roy Cooper today announced that North Carolina will remain paused in Safer At Home Phase 2 for another 5 weeks as students and staff return to schools, colleges and universities and the state doubles down on efforts to decrease COVID-19 numbers.

“Other states that lifted restrictions quickly have had to go backward as their hospital capacity ran dangerously low and their cases jumped higher. We will not make that mistake in North Carolina,” said Governor Cooper. “In keeping with our dimmer switch approach with schools opening, and in order to push for decreasing numbers which will keep people healthier and boost our economy, North Carolina will remain paused in Safer At Home Phase 2 for 5 weeks.”

Per NCDHHS website 07/14/2020:

- North Carolina schools [will open in the fall for both in-person and remote learning](#) with key safety precautions to protect the health of students, teachers, staff and families.
 - Summary: [In-Person Learning in Public Schools](#)
 - Fact sheet: [School Children and COVID-19](#)
 - [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Guidance](#)
 - [Lighting Our Way: N.C. Department of Public Instruction Guidance](#)
- North Carolina will continue to stay paused in [Safer at Home Phase 2](#) when the governor's current executive order expires on Friday, July 17. The order will be extended for three weeks until **Friday, Aug. 7**.
 - View [frequently asked questions about Safer at Home Phase 2](#)
- June 24, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen today announced that North Carolina will remain in Safer at Home Phase 2 for three more weeks. Cooper also announced that face coverings must be worn when people are in public places as officials seek to stabilize concerning trends of increasing viral spread.
- **Per WSOCTV, Starting June 25, Friday at 5 pm, face coverings are required in the state of North Carolina.**

Here is a thread with some highlights of the Executive Order. Please note that I use mask and face covering interchangeably. More details on what can be worn are in the thread.

- Here is everything you need to know about the state's new mandate.
- North Carolina defines a face covering as a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face.
- According to the Executive Order, an ideal face covering has two or more layers. It can be factory-made, sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, bandanas, T-shirts, sweatshirts or a towel.
- A face shield that covers the nose and mouth meets the face-covering requirements of North Carolina's Executive Order.
- People are required to wear face coverings inside and outside unless an exception applies.
- Retail businesses: All workers and customers must wear masks when within 6 feet of another person
- Restaurants: All workers must wear masks. Customers must wear masks whenever they are not at their table.

- Personal care, grooming and tattoo businesses: Workers and customers must wear masks when within 6 feet of another person. A customer can take off their mask if they are getting a facial treatment, shave, tattoo or any other service to the part of the head impacted by the mask.
 - Schools: Face coverings must be worn by students, staff and visitors at every high school and middle school in the state. They are also required while riding the bus. They are not required at elementary schools, but are encouraged.
 - Child care facilities and camps: All workers must wear face coverings. All kids over 11 must wear face coverings when within six feet of another person.
 - Transit: All workers and riders on public or private transportation regulated by North Carolina, as well as all people in North Carolina airports, bus and train stations or stops must wear face coverings when they are or may be within 6 feet of another person.
 - While masks are required on public transportation, including ride-shares, cabs, vans and shuttles, no customer will be removed from or denied entry to public transportation for failure to wear a face covering.
 - Exceptions to the mask mandate:
 - Medical or behavioral conditions; Children under 11; Eating and drinking; Strenuous exercise; When communicating with someone hearing impaired; Giving speeches for broadcast or for an audience; In personal vehicles; Working from home; To secure government or medical services for identification purposes; When safety is at risk; When it impedes the ability to operate equipment or a vehicle; When a child is unable to find a parent due to their mask
 - Anyone who declines to wear a face covering is not be required to produce documentation or any other proof of a condition. An honor system is in place.
 - Enforcement: Officers are not authorized to criminally enforce the mask requirements against individual workers, customers or patrons. However, citations can be issued to businesses or organizations that fail to enforce the requirement to wear masks. If a business does not allow entry to a worker or customer because they refuse to wear a mask, officers can enforce trespassing laws.
 - Read [Executive Order No. 147](#) that implements Cooper's announcement.
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- Per NCDHHS website: NC will move into Phase 2 of lifting #COVID19 restrictions at 5 p.m. Friday, May 22. Phase 2 runs through at least Friday, June 26, unless changed or canceled. For a quick reference guide about the differences in Phases 1 and 2 go to: <http://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/Phases-List.pdf> TWITTER: [#StayStrongNC](#)
 - The Town of Whitsett, NC Town Council Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2020 has been cancelled.
 - The Town of Whitsett, NC Planning Board Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2020 has been cancelled.

- On April 23, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 135 extending North Carolina's Stay At Home order through May 8. The orders extending closure of restaurants for dine-in service and bars and closure of other close-contact businesses are also extended through May 8.
- The Town of Whitsett, NC Town Council Meeting scheduled for April 14, 2020 has been cancelled.
- The Town of Whitsett, NC Planning Board Meeting scheduled for April 7, 2020 has been cancelled - Ken Jacobs, Town Administrator
- Town hall is open regular hours but with the following notice. Only one visitor is allowed in town hall at a time. They will be asked to remain in the Council room where I will meet with them with extreme social separation – Ken Jacobs, Town Administrator.
- Guilford County amends the State of Emergency Declaration to include "Stay at Home" order effective 5pm on Friday, March 27, 2020, and effective until April 16, 2020. That declaration also includes the Town of Whitsett.
- <http://www.whitsettnc.com/docs/COVID19StayAtHomeOrder.pdf>
- <https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/administration/covid-19-stay-at-home-order-declaration>