

COVID-19 Updates:

Feb 10, 2021, 2:00 p.m. NC Gov. Cooper:

Beginning on Feb. 24, the state **will expand the vaccine eligibility to group 3**, starting with educators and school personnel and then expand to other group 3 personnel on March 10, Gov. Roy Cooper announced Wednesday afternoon.

The priority in group 3 will include teachers, principals, childcare workers, bus drivers and other people who work in and around the school systems, Cooper said. This group encompasses about 240,000 people, the governor added.

<https://abc11.com/covid-vaccine-roy-cooper-19-clinic/10325404/>

NCDHHS Find your spot to take your shot.

A free COVID-19 vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible given the limited supply of vaccines. North Carolina moves through vaccination phases by aligning to federal priorities while empowering local health departments and hospitals with flexibility to move to the next priority group as they complete phases and have vaccines available.

Use the following link to the NCDHHS web page containing the tools to find your vaccine group, and look-up the vaccine provider nearest you: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/findyourspot>

Jan 27, 2021

Newslink: [NC Gov. Cooper: North Carolina Extends Modified Stay At Home Order as Numbers Begin to Stabilize in an Effort to Continue to Slow the Spread](#)

Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen today announced that North Carolina's Modified Stay At Home Order, requiring people to be at home from 10 pm – 5 am, will be extended. Face covering requirements and restrictions on individuals gathering in both indoor and outdoor settings are still in place. [Executive Order No. 189](#) will be in effect through at least Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

The extension of [Executive Order No. 190](#) allowing for the sale of “to-go” or delivery of mixed beverages will continue to help businesses that are struggling right now. The

extension of [Executive Order No. 191](#) will help families have the ability to stay in their homes, a critical component of slowing the spread of the virus.

In addition to the Modified Stay at Home Order, the DHHS [secretarial directive](#) remains in effect. People should stay home and only leave for essential purposes such as buying food, accessing health care, and going to school or work.

Jan 6, 2021

Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen shared an update today on North Carolina's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and support the vaccination effort currently underway.

Governor Cooper extended North Carolina's [Modified Stay At Home Order that requires people to be at home from 10 pm – 5 am to last through at least Friday, January 29.](#) Secretary Cohen also issued a Secretarial Directive with stark warnings for North Carolinians to avoid indoor spaces without masks and gatherings between households. Read here for more details on the [Secretarial Directive](#).

"We have turned the page on a new year – one that we're hoping will bring better times. But as we know, the virus didn't disappear at midnight on December 31," Governor Cooper said. "In fact, in North Carolina, we have seen some of our highest case counts, percent positives, hospitalizations and ICU bed usage numbers in the past few days. No matter where you live, work, worship or play, COVID-19 remains a deadly threat, and we must treat it that way."

"We are in a very dangerous position. North Carolinians need to take immediate actions to save lives, slow the spread of the virus, and protect hospital capacity so that medical care is available to anyone who may need it, whether for COVID-19 or for any other reason," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

<https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-cooper-extends-modified-stay-home-order-amid-rising-case-counts>

Dec 8, 2020

Gov. Cooper Phase 3 COVID-19 Update Executive Order 181

The order is effective Dec. 11, 2020, at 5 p.m. through Jan. 8, 2021, at 5 p.m., unless otherwise modified or extended.

Under this order:

- Certain businesses and facilities are ordered to close to the public between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. (the “Night-Time Public Closure Period”). This includes restaurants (with exceptions for take-out and delivery, as noted below), bars, entertainment venues, parks, museums and aquariums, certain retail establishments and other businesses and facilities specified below and in the order.
- All individuals in North Carolina must stay at home or the place they will remain for the night between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. (the “Stay at Home Period”), unless an exception applies.
- The sale and service of alcoholic beverages is prohibited for on-site consumption between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Events or convenings outside of the home must end by 10 p.m. and guests must leave the establishment and travel home or to the place where they will stay for the night.
- The capacity limitations on certain businesses, indoor and outdoor gathering limits and other public health measures implemented by previous executive orders are extended through Jan. 8, 2021.

For full information: <https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/staying-ahead-curve/modified-stay-home-order-faqs-executive-order-181#what-are-the-major-changes-under-this-order>

Nov 10, 2020

Gov. Cooper Phase 3 COVID-19 Update 11/10/2020:

Under Executive Order 169 and Executive Order 176, North Carolina remains under Phase 3 of lifting COVID-19 restrictions until at least Dec. 4.

Under Phase 3:

Large outdoor venues with seating greater than 10,000 may operate with 7% occupancy for spectators.

Smaller outdoor entertainment venues, such as arenas or amphitheatres, may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.

Movie theaters and conference centers may open indoor spaces to 30% of capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.

Bars may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.

Amusement parks may open at 30% occupancy, outdoor attractions only.

Until 5 p.m. Nov. 13, the limits on mass gatherings will remain at 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors. **Effective 5 p.m. Nov. 13, the indoor mass gathering limit is 10 people.**

An 11 p.m. curfew on alcohol sales for in-person consumption remains in effect in locations such as restaurants and outdoor bars/

<https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/staying-ahead-curve>

Oct 21, 2020

Governor Roy Cooper announced today that North Carolina will remain paused in Phase 3 for three more weeks as health officials continue to monitor North Carolina’s viral trends. North Carolina has seen increased hospitalizations and trajectory of cases in recent weeks. Governor

Cooper underscored the importance of wearing masks, social distancing, and using good judgment despite fatigue or frustration with the pandemic.

“As this pandemic continues, I know it’s difficult and tiring to keep up our guard, especially when we’re gathered with people we love. But it’s necessary. No one wants to spread COVID-19 accidentally to friends or family, so we must keep prevention at the forefront,” said Governor Cooper. “Wearing a mask shows you care about people. Wearing a mask is an easy way to protect our communities and look out for each other. Confronting the virus head on and doing our part as individuals is good for our health and good for our economy.”

Full article: <https://governor.nc.gov/news/following-data-north-carolina-will-remain-paused-phase-3>

October 2, 2020

North Carolina will enter Phase 3 of lifting COVID-19 restrictions, effective 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2. (View Phase 3 FAQs.)

Under Executive Order 169:

- Large outdoor venues with seating greater than 10,000 may operate with 7% occupancy for spectators.
- Smaller outdoor entertainment venues, such as arenas or amphitheaters, may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Movie theaters and conference centers may open indoor spaces to 30% of capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Bars may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity – or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Amusement parks may open at 30% occupancy, outdoor attractions only.
- The limits on mass gatherings will remain at 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.
- The 11 p.m. curfew on alcohol sales for in-person consumption in locations such as restaurants and outdoor bars will be extended to Oct. 23.

<https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/staying-ahead-curve>

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 to, 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.
- 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>