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Subject:	COVID-19 Case Count, Secretarial Directive to Stay at Home, and Vaccine Phone Numbers
Date:	Wednesday, January 06, 2021 03:26:53 PM

Legislators,

We have now had 582,348 laboratory confirmed cases in North Carolina. This included 6,952 newly reported cases with a percent positive rate of 17.8%. There are 3,893 people hospitalized with COVID-19. Sadly we have 7,076 confirmed deaths for North Carolina.

Our full data dashboard can be found at the link below:
https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/

Secretarial Directive to Stay at Home

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today issued a Secretarial Directive telling North Carolinians to stay home except for essential activities and avoid gathering, especially indoors, with people who do not live with you.

The directive comes as the state reports 84 counties as red in the COVID-19 County Alert System released today, meaning most of the state has critical levels of viral spread. North Carolina also has experienced record high numbers on key metrics in recent weeks, including its highest number since the start of the pandemic of cases reported each day, the percent of tests that are positive and people hospitalized with COVID-19.

"There is an alarming amount of virus everywhere in our state. We are in a very dangerous position," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "Every single North Carolinian needs to take immediate action to save lives and protect themselves and each other."

Today's directive outlines immediate actions North Carolinians must take to save lives, slow the spread of the virus and protect hospital capacity across North Carolina to ensure medical care is available to anyone who may need it, whether for COVID-19 or for any other reason.

The directive aligns with recent recommendations from the White House Coronavirus Task Force, the Governor's Executive Orders on COVID-19 and the COVID-19 County Alert System for North Carolina. North Carolinians are directed to:

- Only leave home for essential activities such as going to work or school, for health care purposes, to care for family members or to buy food.
- Avoid leaving home if you are over 65 or at high risk for developing serious illness. Use delivery services or alternative pick-up methods for food and retail.
- Avoid gathering with people who do not live with you.
- Wear a mask and keep distance from people when you leave home.
- Avoid any indoor public spaces where people are not wearing masks.
- Stay away from crowds. Avoid places where people may gather in large numbers.

As recommended by the White House Coronavirus Task Force to North Carolina, the directive also says that if you have gathered with people who do not live with you, assume that you

became infected with the virus and get tested for COVID-19. People should also get tested if they have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

COVID-19 is highly contagious, and more than half of North Carolinians are at high risk for serious illness. Studies are also finding that some people, including those who had mild illness, experience symptoms for weeks or months following infection.

North Carolina's statewide mask requirement and Modified Stay at Home Order are in effect. This order requires people to stay at home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Businesses including restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, personal care businesses, most retail stores and more, have capacity limits and are required to close by 10 p.m. In addition, all onsite alcohol consumption sales must end by 9 p.m.

For more information on the Secretarial Directive, read the Frequently Asked Questions.

Vaccine Phone Numbers

We have added a section to our vaccine website where people can find the phone numbers to call to make appointments to get vaccinated.

I want to be clear about some aspects regarding this list:

- All of the sites listed have received vaccine, but is does **NOT** mean all sites are vaccinating people who are 75+ yet. A number of sites are still finishing up their 1A health care workers.
- **Supplies are very limited.** Right now, very few vaccine doses are available.
- **You will likely need an appointment to get vaccinated.** You may have to wait to schedule your appointment to get your vaccine.
- **You can search by zip code or county to find locations and contact information.** Because vaccine supplies are very limited, providers on this list may have very little to no vaccine doses available when you contact them.
- The list of phone numbers for vaccination sites is available here: https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/findyourspot

People can also call **1-877-490-6642** to get connected with a vaccination site near them. People cannot make appointments by calling this line. It is simply a referral to help people find sites near them. People will still need to contact the site where they'd like to get vaccinated to see if an appointment is necessary before going in for a vaccination.

Thank you,
Matt

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