

# North Carolina's Response to COVID-19

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## COVID-19 Response

1. **Save lives and treat the sick** with best care possible – Prepare for surge in the healthcare system; purchase and distribute PPE; create additional hospital bed capacity; keep frontline healthcare workers and first responders safe.
2. **Slow the spread and flatten the curve** to keep our healthcare system from being overwhelmed – testing and surveillance; interventions to increase social distance. Closure of schools, limited access to long term care facilities, restaurants, bars, personal care, and stay-at-home order.
3. **Mitigate the economic blow** to NC workers, families, businesses – Global economic impact; EO on unemployment insurance to increase access to benefits, SBA EIDL, Disaster Declaration; federal stabilization + state response.



## Social Distancing

- Our best weapon is social distancing. What we do today can save lives in the weeks and months to come.
- The more social distancing actions we take and stick to, the more likely our health care system will be there for everyone who needs it: **Staying home saves lives.**
- If you have to be out, staying at least six feet away from other people lessens your chances of catching COVID-19 or infecting someone else.
- Remember to wash your hands frequently. Cough into your elbow. And if you feel sick and have mild symptoms, stay home and call your doctor.

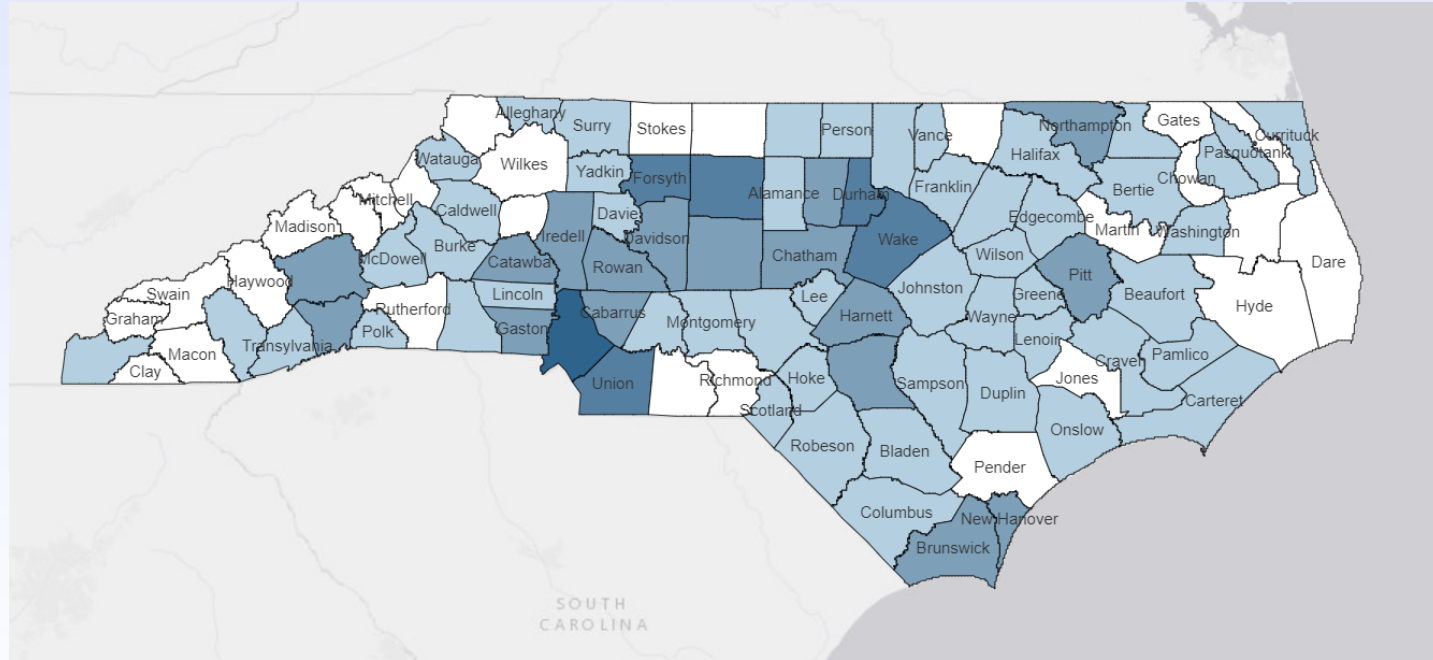


## State Actions

- **Testing** - NC has completed more than 20,000 COVID-19 tests as of March 30
- **Mobilizing medical resources** – protection equipment, ventilators, additional space
- **Information Capture** – On hospital bed availability, resources, and COVID-19
- **Statewide Stay at Home Order** issued for thirty days began 3/30 at 5 PM
  - Order also limits gatherings to 10 people
- **School closures** until to May 15
- Entertainment facilities and personal care businesses closed
- Sit-down service at restaurants/bars not permitted – take-out, drive through only
- Restrictions on long-term care facilities visitation

NC Cases	NC Deaths	States with Cases	US Cases	US Deaths
<b>1,307</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>122,653</b>	<b>2,112</b>

*Data as of March 30, 2020 – 10:00am*



<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-case-count-nc>



## Informing State Actions

- **Testing** - NC has completed more than 20,000 COVID-19 tests as of March 30.
- **Surveillance** – DHHS Epidemiology team adapting Illness Surveillance Network to get a more accurate picture of COVID-19 spread.
- **Modeling** – partnership with research leaders to better understand and predict spread of the disease and impact on healthcare system.
- COVID-19 is a new disease. Information on this disease has only recently been captured:
  - The CDC estimates that between February 12 and March 16, 21% - 31% of people who tested positive for COVID-19 in the United States were hospitalized with 4% - 11% were in intensive care.
  - In Italy, 29% of people who tested positive for COVID-19 had severe or critical illness. In China, it was 19%.
  - While these early studies don't give us the complete picture of the virus – they are certainly extremely worrisome.
- *Sources: JAMA (Published online March 17, 2020), CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) March 26, 2020.*



## MAJOR EXECUTIVE ACTION

- March 10 – [Executive Order 116](#) – Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate the Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19
- March 14 - [Executive Order 117](#) – Prohibiting Mass Gatherings and Directing the Statewide Closure of K-12 Public Schools to Limit the Spread of COVID-19
- March 17 – [Executive Order 118](#) – Limiting Operations of Restaurants and Bars and Broadening Unemployment Insurance Benefits in Response to COVID-19
- March 23 – [Executive Order 120](#) – Additional Limitations on Mass Gatherings, Restrictions on Venues and Long-Term Care Facilities, and Extension of School Closure Date
- March 27 – [Executive Order 121](#) – Stay at Home Order and Strategic Directions For North Carolina in Response to Increasing COVID-19 Cases
- March 30 – [Executive Order 122](#) - Access state surplus property to help bridge gaps during the response to COVID-19.



## EO 121

- Executive Order 121 directs people to stay at home except to visit essential businesses, to exercise outdoors or to help a family member. The order bans gatherings of more than 10 people and directs everyone to stay at least six feet apart from others.
- A full list of essential businesses is in the Executive Order.
  - List based on Homeland Security CISA list, recommendations from public health experts.
- Businesses not included in the order who believe they may be essential should direct requests to the Department of Revenue: <https://www.ncdor.gov/home/ncdor-actions-covid-19/covid-19-essential-businesses>
- All COVID-19 Executive Orders and Frequently Asked Question guidance can be found here: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/executive-orders>





## Mitigating Economic Impact

- Expanded access to unemployment benefits
  - Elimination of one-week waiting period & “seek work” requirements
  - Elimination of charge-back to businesses
  - 300,000+ claims filed since 3/16
  - First checks go out this week
- SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)
  - Low-interest loans to businesses and non-profits up to \$2 million to assist with losses caused by COVID-19.
  - This program has been approved for all 100 counties.
- CARES Act
- Federal Disaster Declaration
- Manufacturing PPE & other critical needs
- Additional Waivers



## Questions?

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