



NC COVID-19 Response

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DHHS Chief Deputy Secretary

NC State Board of Education Meeting

January 7, 2021

Trends - Our Metrics

We are looking at a combination of metrics over the last 14 days.

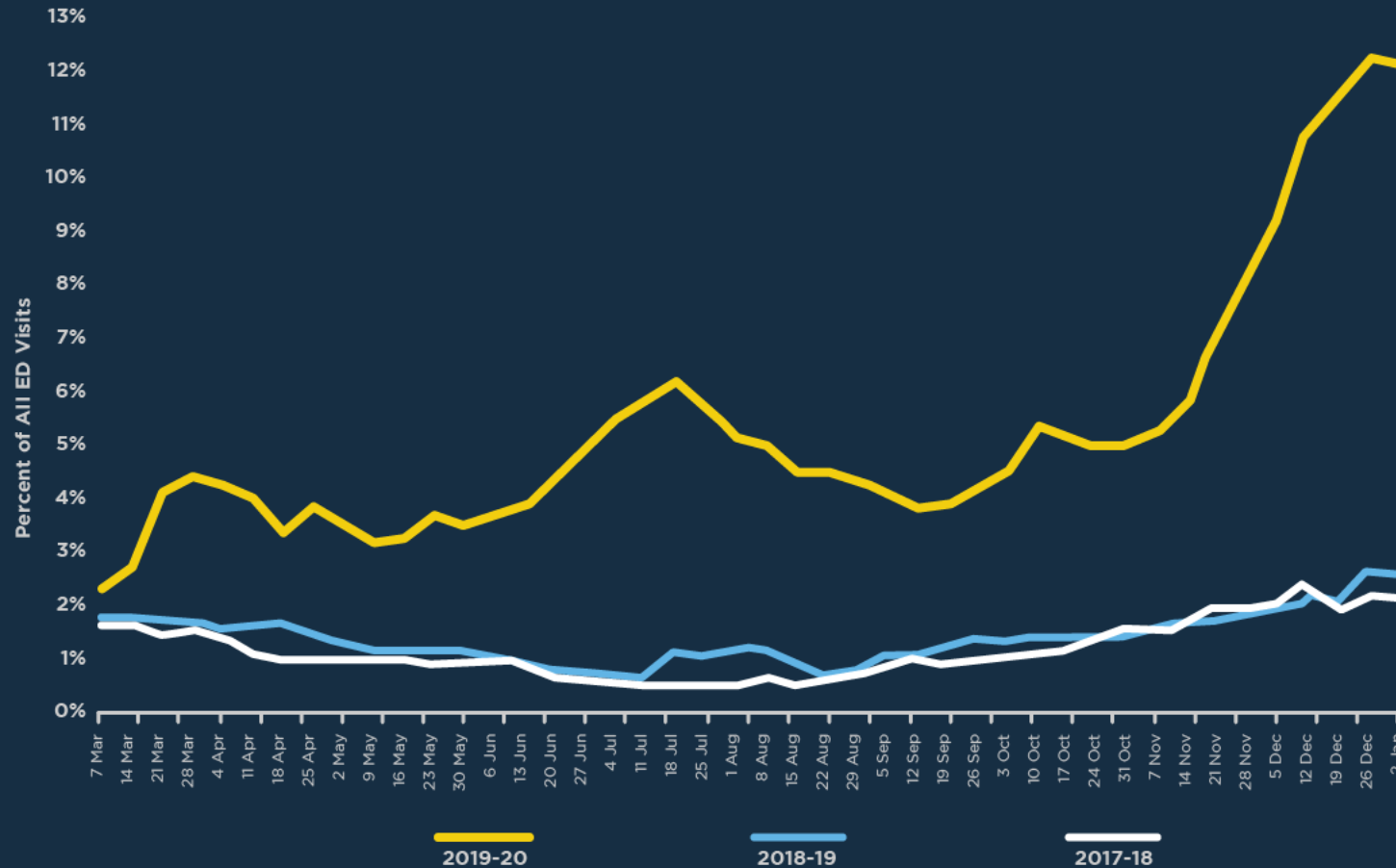
- COVID-like syndromic cases
- Cases
- Positive tests as a percentage of total tests
- Hospitalizations

We are also looking at our capacity for testing, tracing and personal protective equipment.

Trends

Trajectory of COVID-like Syndromic Cases

Source: NC DETECT

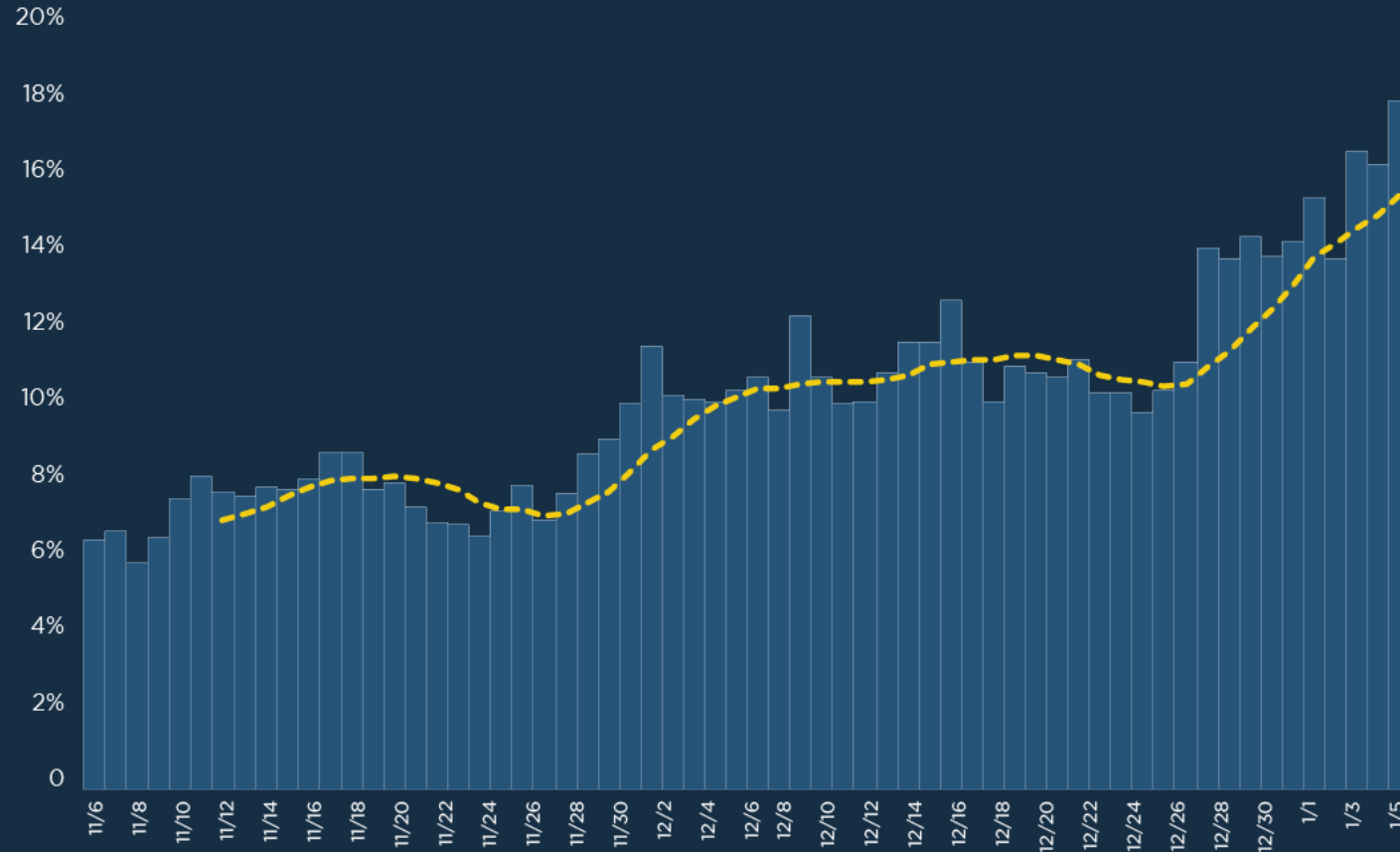


The percent of visits to the Emergency Department for COVID-like illness is **increasing**.

Trends

Trajectory % of Tests that are Positive

Percent positive for SARS-CoV-2 by date of report among ELR labs

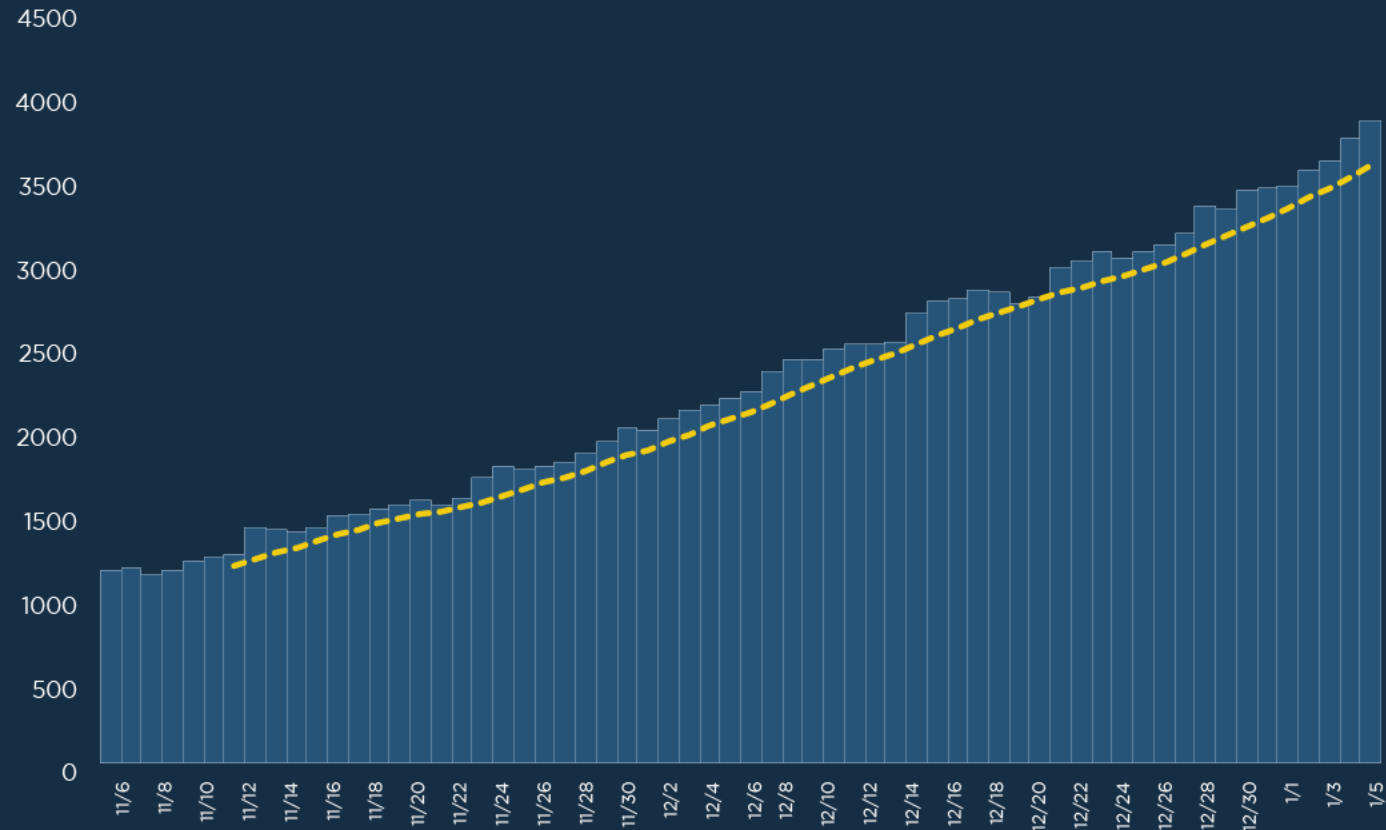


The trajectory of positive tests as a percentage of total tests is **increasing**.

Trends

Trajectory of Hospitalizations

Daily Bed Census of COVID-19 Patients.



Hospitalizations are **increasing**.

Where We Are Today

Trends

Trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases



Trajectory of cases



Trajectory of positive tests as a percentage of total tests



Trajectory of hospitalizations



Capacity

Testing



Contact Tracing



Personal Protective Equipment



COVID-19 County Alert System Metrics

Case Rate

Number of new cases in 14 days per 100,000 people

Percent Positive

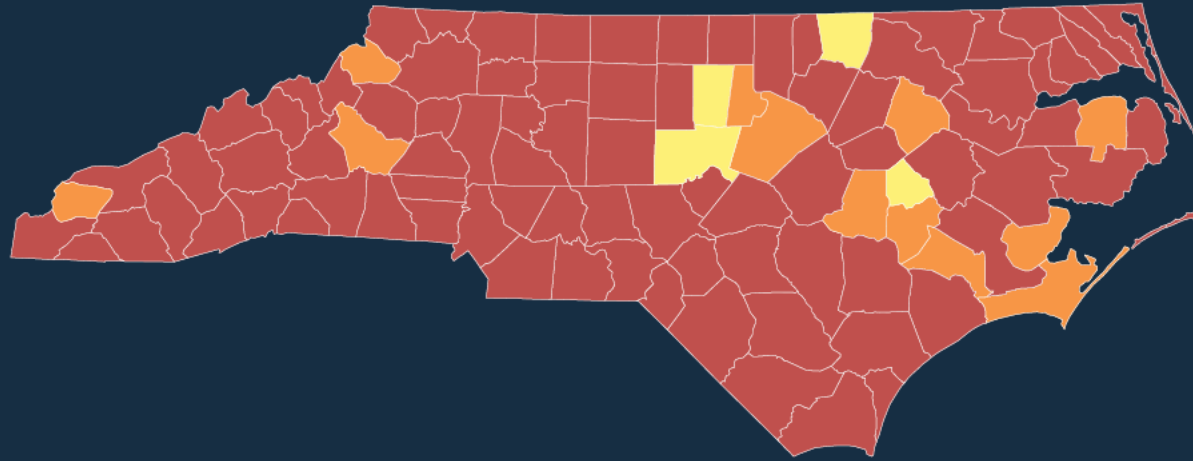
Percent of tests that are positive over 14 days

Hospital Impact

A composite score based on:

- percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations
- COVID-19 related visits to the Emergency Department
- staffed open hospital beds
- critical staffing shortages over 14 days

COVID-19 County Alert System

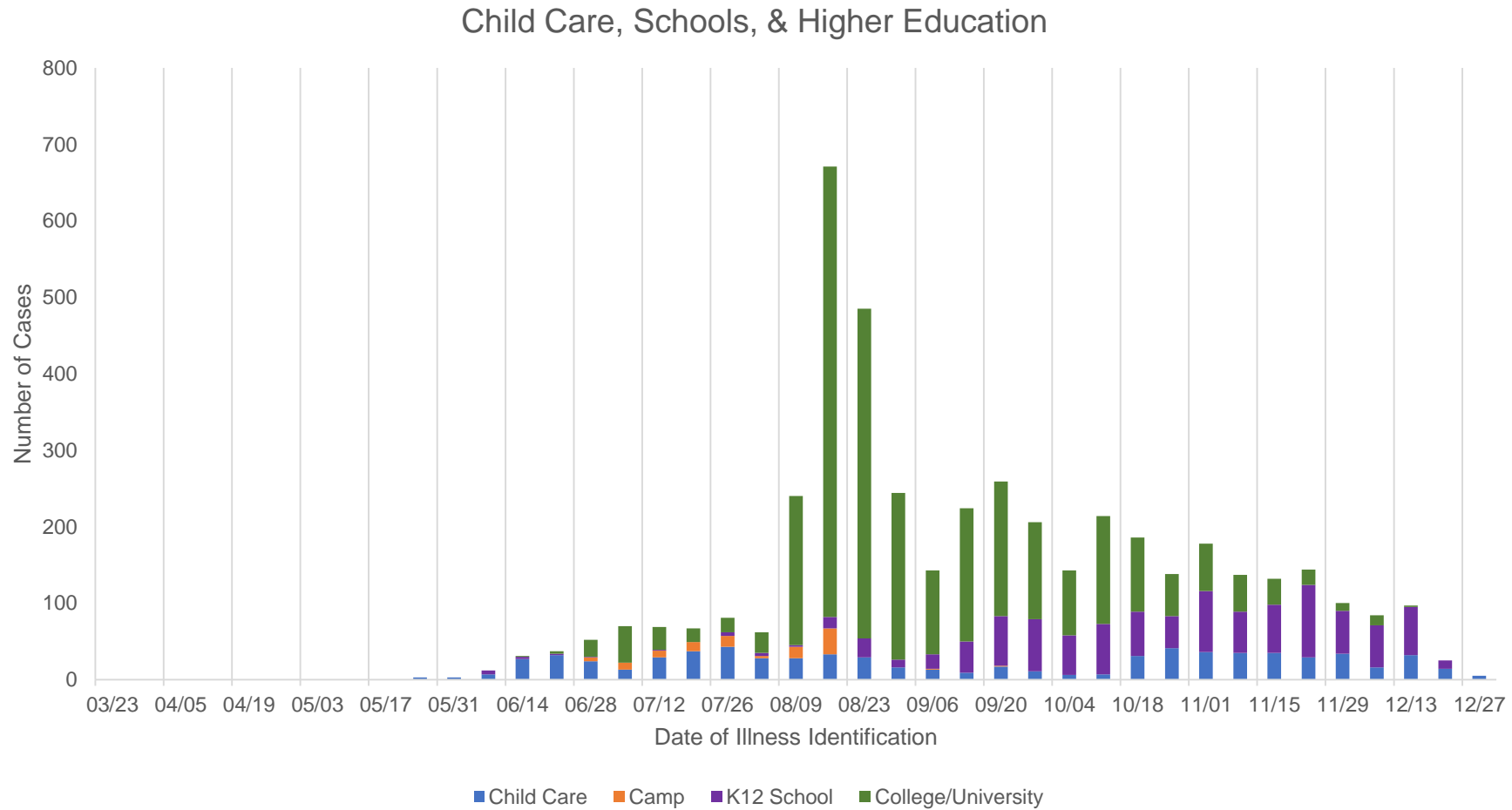


- Critical Community Spread
- Substantial Community Spread
- Significant Community Spread

K-12 Reported Clusters – as of 11/30

- **309 cases associated with currently active clusters as of 11/30/20**
 - **31 currently active clusters**
 - **207 cases among students and 102 cases among staff**
 - **94 cases and 15 clusters among public schools (within those statistics, 11 cases and 2 cluster among charters)**
 - **16 Clusters, and 204 cases among private schools (51% of total active clusters, 66% of total active cluster-linked cases)**
 - **14 clusters, and 188 cases among faith-based schools (45% of total active clusters, 61% of total active cluster-linked cases)**

Comparing Education Clusters



New Secretarial Directive In Effect

Wear a mask at all times and maintain physical distance (at least 6 feet) from people when you leave your home.

Stay home. Only go out for essential activities like work, school, health care or caring for family or buying food.

Avoid gathering with people that you do not live with. If you cannot avoid being with other people, stay outside, and keep it very small. Do not do things where you need to take off your mask, like eating or drinking.

If you were with people that you do not live with, you should assume you may have become infected and get tested.

COVID-19 Vaccines:

Your best shot against
COVID-19.

Dr. Charlene Wong
North Carolina State Board of Education Meeting
January 7, 2021



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**





**You'll soon be able to take
a safe vaccine to protect
you from getting COVID-19.**

It's free to everyone.

Here's what you need to know.

Tested, safe and effective, COVID-19 vaccines will help us get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love.

- Scientists had a head start, and thousands of volunteers helped with clinical trials.
- The vaccines are tested, safe, and effective.
- You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- Those who are most at risk get it first.
- You have a spot to take your shot.

Scientists had a head start.



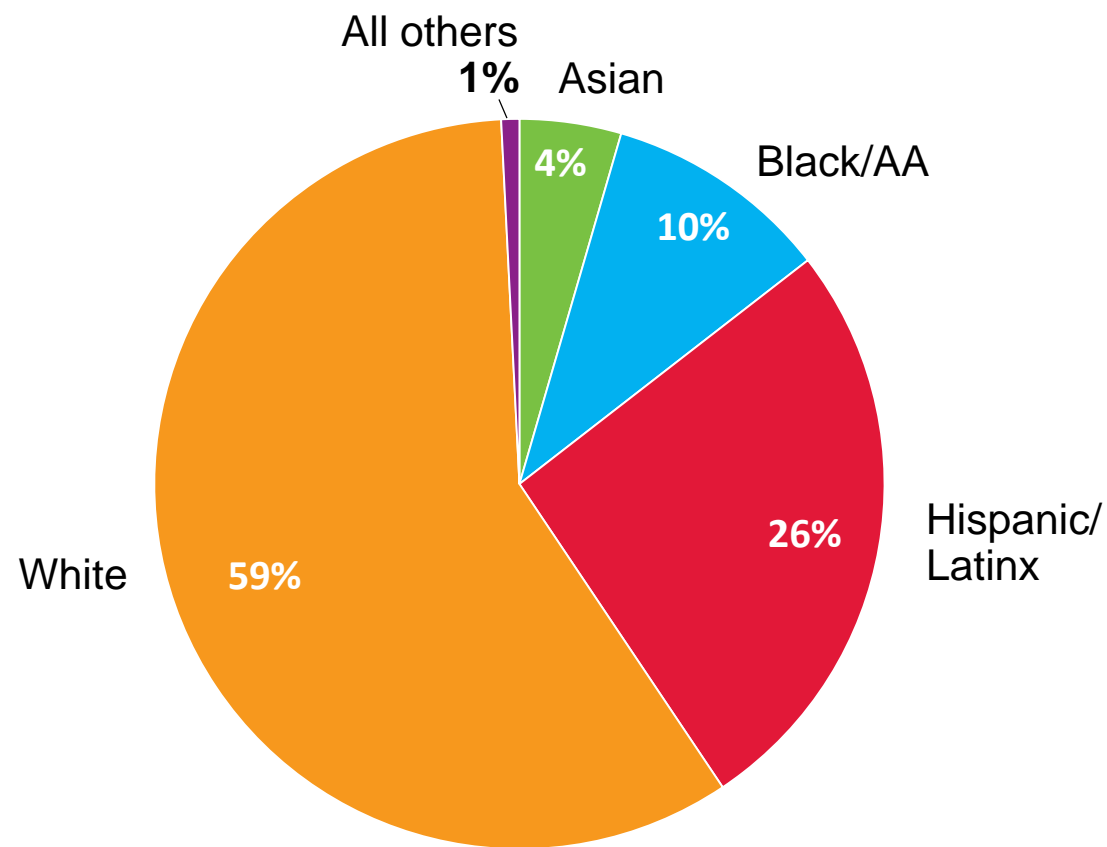
- COVID-19 vaccines are built on decades of work to develop vaccines for similar viruses.
- The first two vaccines use a method that researchers have been studying and working with for decades.

The vaccines are tested, safe, and effective.

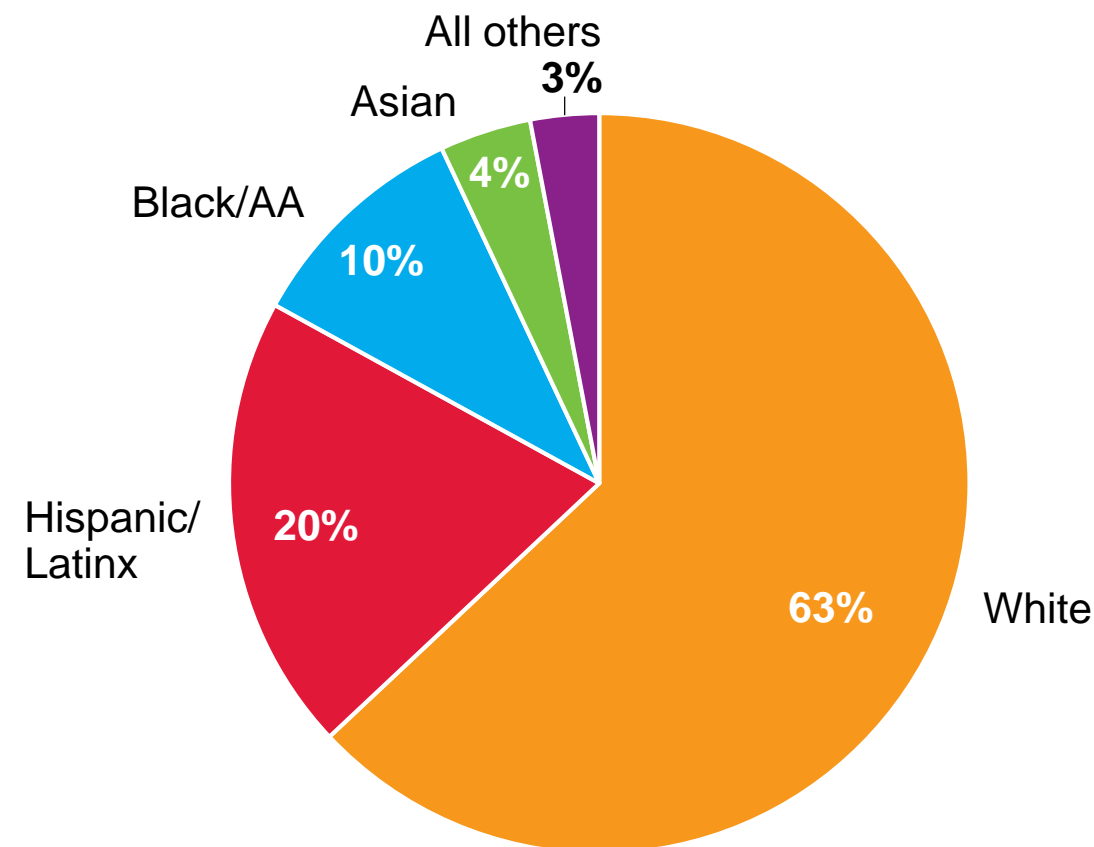


- All vaccines are rigorously tested for safety and effectiveness.
- More than 70,000 people volunteered in clinical trials for two vaccines—Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna - to make sure the vaccines were safe and worked to prevent COVID-19.
- To date, the vaccines are 95% effective in preventing COVID-19.
- There were no serious safety concerns in the clinical trials with either vaccine.
- You could have temporary reactions like a sore arm, headache, or feeling tired and achy for a day or two.

There have been intentional efforts to recruit volunteers from historically marginalized populations.



Source: <https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine>



Source: https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

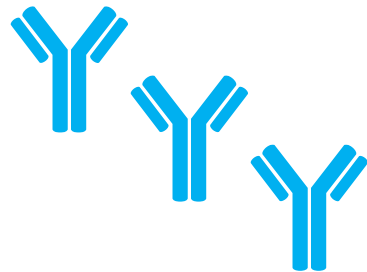
Vaccines safely increase your body's natural ability to fight the virus before the virus attacks you. That's how you win, and the virus loses. Here is how the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines work:

Vaccines imitate COVID without giving it to you.

Vaccine



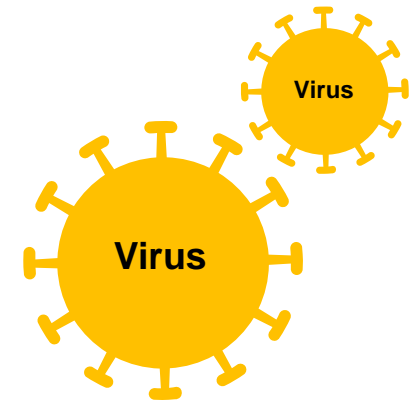
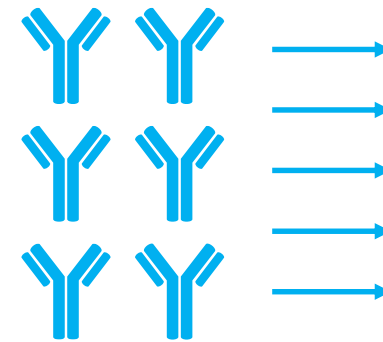
Antibodies



The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines give your body instructions to make a protein that safely teaches your body to making an antibody to fight the real COVID-19.

You can fight off the real virus if it tries to attack you.

Antibodies



After getting vaccinated, you develop the ability to fight off the real virus because your body is strong enough and knows how to win.

Two shots are necessary—and we have a plan to help everyone get both doses.

- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require two shots to build up strong immunity against COVID-19.
- The second shot will come 3 to 4 weeks after the first.
- It is important to get two doses of the same vaccine.
- We built a system—the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System—to help make sure people are safe and get the right second dose at the right time. It lets you schedule appointments and sends you a reminder.

Your privacy and personal information are protected at all times.

- Nothing in the vaccine can be tracked—the protein your body makes cannot be tracked and it disappears after it finishes making you stronger.
- Personal information about your vaccination and health are protected at all times.
- We do not send any personal information to the CDC.

Vaccines will be available to all—for free.

- Supplies will be limited at first.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have been authorized and sent to states, but it will be some time before they are widely available to everyone.
- State and federal public health experts recommended starting with vaccinations for those most at risk.
- More people will be reached when the vaccine supply increases throughout 2021.
- The vaccines are free to everyone, even if you don't have health insurance.
- Rest assured: You have a spot to take your shot.

Those most at risk get it first.

YOU HAVE A
SPOT. | TAKE YOUR
SHOT.

1a
Health care workers fighting COVID-19 & Long-Term Care staff and residents.

- Health care workers caring for and working directly with patients with COVID-19, including staff responsible for cleaning and maintenance in those areas
- Health care workers administering vaccine
- Long-term care staff and residents—people in skilled nursing facilities and in adult, family and group homes

1b
Adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers.

There is not enough vaccine for everyone in this phase to be vaccinated at the same time. Vaccinations will be available to groups in the following order.

- **Group 1:** Anyone 75 years or older, regardless of health status or living situation
- **Group 2:** Health care workers and frontline essential workers 50 years or older*
- **Group 3:** Health care workers and frontline essential workers of any age

** The CDC defines frontline essential workers as first responders (e.g., firefighters and police officers), corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff members) as well as child care workers*

2
Adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness.

Vaccinations will happen by group in the following order:

- **Group 1:** Anyone 65-74 years old, regardless of health status or living situation
- **Group 2:** Anyone 16-64 years old with high-risk medical conditions that increase risk of severe disease from COVID-19 such as cancer, COPD, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, Type 2 diabetes, among others, regardless of living situation
- **Group 3:** Anyone who is incarcerated or living in other close group living settings who is not already vaccinated due to age, medical condition or job function
- **Group 4:** Essential workers not yet vaccinated*

** The CDC defines these as workers in transportation and logistics, water and wastewater, food service, shelter and housing (e.g., construction), finance (e.g., bank tellers), information technology and communications, energy, legal, media, and public safety (e.g., engineers), and public health workers*

3
Students

- College and university students
- K-12 students age 16 and over. Younger children will only be vaccinated when the vaccine is approved for them

4
Everyone who wants a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination.

Current
Phase

For more information:
YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov



Children and the COVID-19 vaccine

- The Moderna vaccine is authorized for use down to age 16.
- Clinical trials in the US currently are enrolling children down to age 12. One trial in the UK is approved down to age 5 but none have enrolled in the US.
- Whether a vaccine is available for children before the 2020-21 school year depends on the results of the clinical trials that are planned or underway now.
- Children are important to consider for vaccination because COVID-19 can cause serious illness in children and because children can pass the virus along to others.

COVID-19 Vaccinations in North Carolina: January 2020

Who is being vaccinated now?

Health care workers at highest risk for COVID-19 exposure: Such as doctors, nurses, and those caring for and cleaning areas used by COVID-19 patients

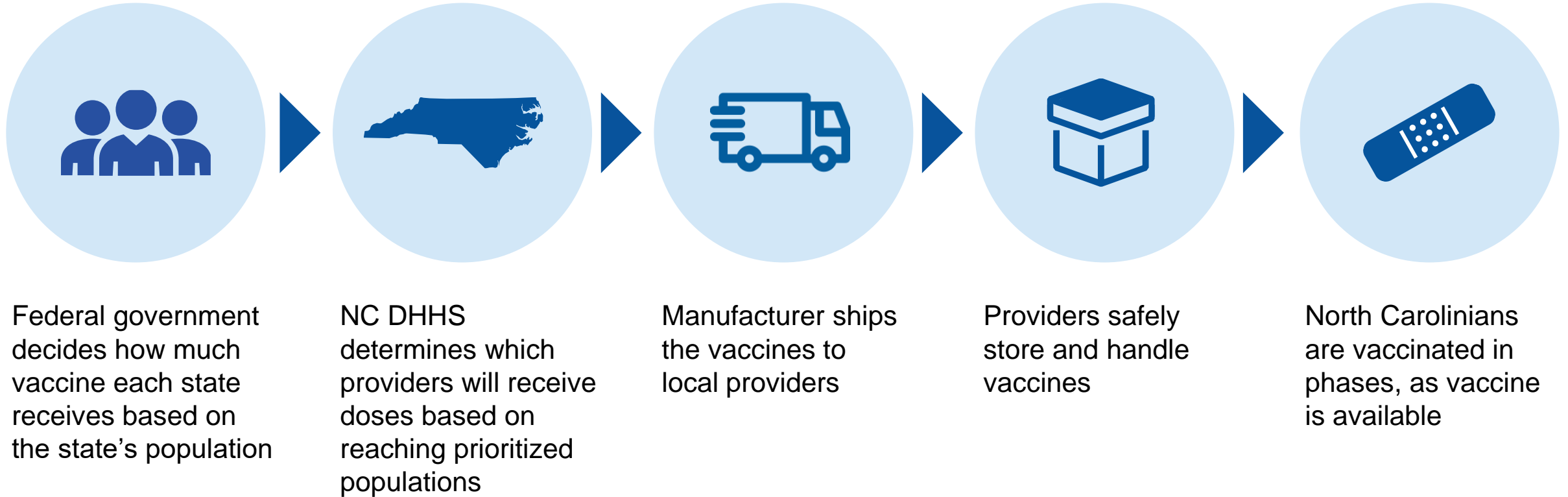
Long-term care staff and residents: People living and working in places like skilled nursing facilities or group homes

Where are they being vaccinated?

Health care workers at highest risk for COVID-19 exposure: In hospitals or local health departments that have received early shipments of vaccine

Long-term care staff and residents: The federal government manages vaccinations for most long-term care facilities. Most will be vaccinated at their facilities under the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program with CVS and Walgreens

North Carolina receives shipments of COVID-19 vaccine each week.



Finding your spot: How will you know when and where to get your shot?

- Frontline essential workers, including education staff, will have a variety of options for when and where to get their shot.
- Your health care provider can also help you find where to take your shot against COVID-19.
- Additional information on where to take your shot is available at **YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov**.

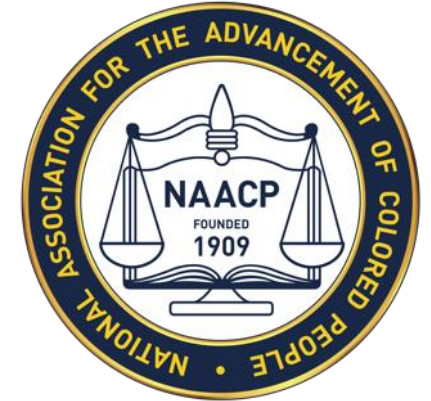
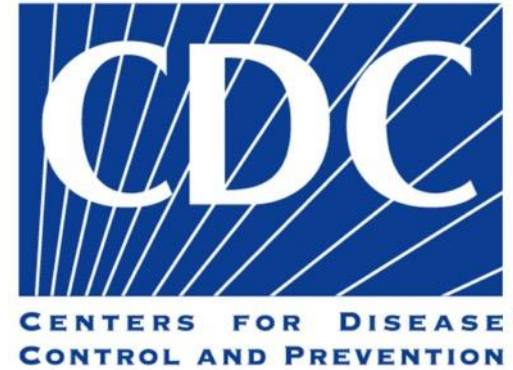
Keeping everyone informed: You have a spot, take your shot.

- We are working hard to give North Carolinians the information they need to take their shot.
- Look for information at news conferences, our website, social media, and from trusted community leaders.
- Community leaders and organizations are helping to shape the campaign and are reaching out to the public.
- The goal is to provide all with a spot for honest information and updates on where they can get their shot.

Leading with equity: We must build trust.

- Racism runs throughout our social, economic, and health care systems, causing unequal access to care, maltreatment, and neglect for historically marginalized communities. These longstanding and continuing racial and ethnic injustices in our health care system contribute to lack of trust in vaccines.
- North Carolina is drawing upon the experience and expertise of leaders from historically marginalized communities to develop and implement its vaccine plan.

**Leading medical
and professional
organizations are
encouraging
all Americans to
get vaccinated**



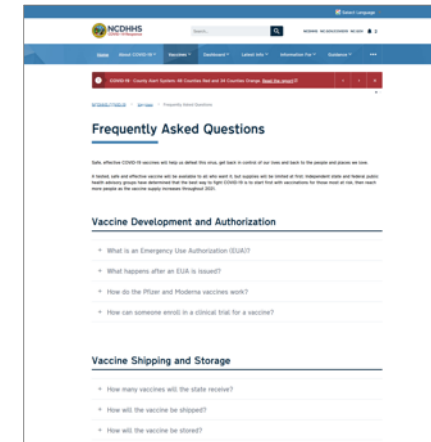
Online Resources | Updated Regularly

YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov

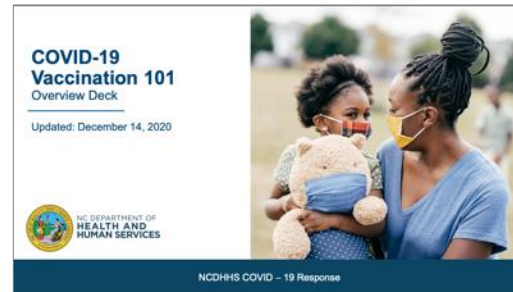
One-page flyer on COVID-19 vaccines to distribute



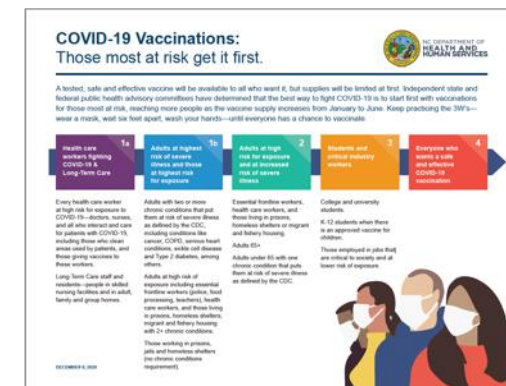
Frequently Asked Questions *(updating weekly)*



COVID-19 vaccines 101 deck



Infographic on prioritization



Keep practicing the 3 Ws: Wear, Wait, and Wash.



- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine and following the 3 Ws is everyone's best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.
- Continue using the 3 Ws and limiting social gatherings until most people are vaccinated.
- Getting back in control, getting back to family and friends, and getting kids back to school will take some time—but the COVID-19 vaccine and the 3 Ws will get us there quicker and safer.

**Let's work together to share information.
Help distribute information and materials:
YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov**

- **Help direct people to “their spot” for reliable information about the vaccine:** Maybe it's you, now that you have new vaccine knowledge
- **Show people that you trust the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines:** Share your positive experience when you have your shot against COVID-19
- **Use and share the COVID-19 vaccine communications materials to make sure more North Carolinians have accurate and up-to-date information on the vaccines:** Find them at YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov



Let's talk.