



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

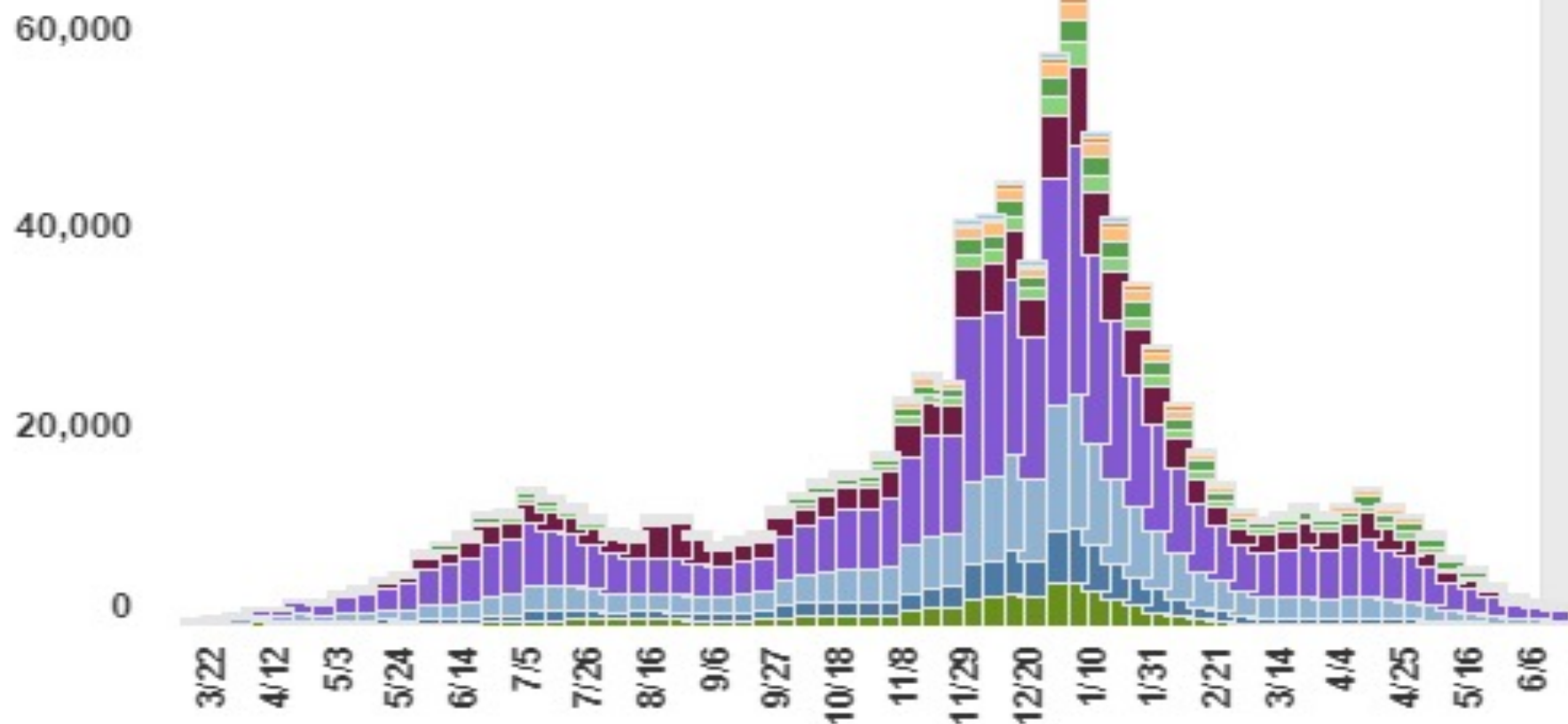
# **NC Rural Coalition Meeting**

**June 23, 2021**

# Cases by Age for North Carolina



## Weekly Cases Trend



## Total Cases

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 0-1          | 1% (10,165)   |
| 2-4          | 1% (14,001)   |
| 5-9          | 3% (27,989)   |
| 10-14        | 4% (40,712)   |
| 15-17        | 3% (35,071)   |
| 18-24        | 14% (141,215) |
| 25-49        | 39% (398,282) |
| 50-64        | 20% (202,690) |
| 65-74        | 8% (78,543)   |
| 75+          | 6% (62,134)   |
| Missing Data | 87            |

# Snapshot of Metrics

| Child Care and K-12 School Settings <span>i</span> |       |        |
|--|-------|--------|
|  | Cases | Deaths |
| Child Care   | 1,580 | 3      |
| K-12 School  | 2,466 | 0      |

| Child Care and K-12 School Clusters <span>i</span> |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| Child Care   |  | 4  |
| K-12 School  |  | 15 |

June 22, 2021

**With prevention measures in place, increasing evidence suggests low rates of COVID-19 transmission in primary and secondary school settings even with high rates of community transmission.**

- There is little evidence that schools have contributed to increase rates of community transmission; countries that have reopened their schools did not see large rises in infection at a population level.
- Overall, studies in the US and internationally have demonstrated limited disease transmission from child-to-child and very limited to no transmission from child-to-adult in the in-person school setting.
- North Carolina's ABC collaborative found rates of secondary transmission during in-person school instruction significantly less than the surrounding communities and no cases of student-to-staff transmission.

# Current Guidance for Schools: StrongSchools Toolkit

| Requirements  | Plan A | Plan B |
|---|--------|--------|
| <b>In-Person Instruction Available in Both Plan A and B</b><br>Provided 5-days/week to the fullest extent possible while still meeting StrongSchoolsNC public health protocols  |        |        |
| <b><u>Physical Distancing Protocols to Minimize Exposure</u></b> – Keeping physical space between and among children and especially among adults  | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Six Feet Physical Distancing Protocols</u></b> – Maintaining six feet of physical distance between people especially when stationary or congregating for increased layer of protection  | ✗      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Cloth Face Coverings</u></b> – Consistent use of face coverings for all students, staff and visitors  | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Protecting Vulnerable Populations</u></b> – People with certain conditions are at higher-risk than others to become severely ill if exposed to COVID-19   | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Coping and Resilience</u></b> – Schools can play an important role in helping students and staff cope with fear and anxiety cause by the effects of the pandemic  | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Cleaning and Hygiene</u></b> – Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer reduces the spread of disease   | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Monitoring for Symptoms</u></b> – Ongoing self-monitoring for symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath can help reduce exposure   | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Handling Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19</u></b> – Taking appropriate steps to address suspected, presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 is critical to containing spread of COVID-19 both in and outside of school                                     | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Communication and Combatting Misinformation</u></b> – Staff, students and families need ongoing, reliable information to promote behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19  | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b><u>Transportation</u></b> – School buses/vehicles must take similar key steps to protect against the spread of COVID-19 including adhering to consistent use of face coverings, addressing physical distancing and following cleaning and hygiene protocols                          | ✓      | ✓      |
| <b>Remote Learning Option Available</b><br>Schools must create a process for students and/or their families, teachers, and staff to self-identify as high-risk from COVID-19 and have a plan in place to address requests for alternative learning arrangements or work re-assignments. |        |        |

# TESTING

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## **K-12 Testing for the 2021-2022 School year**

NC DHHS received federal funds to support screening testing for public and private K-12 schools during the 2021-22 school year

What can you use these funds for? There are 3 options:

1. Priority vendor support through state contracted testing vendor
2. Independent testing program, providing free tests to schools
3. Funding for public schools (LEAs and charters) to hire temporary school health staff



## Call to Action: 4 things to do now to prepare for 2021-22 SY

1. Become familiar with testing types and options in order to make informed decisions on testing programs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>
2. When opt-in form is released, stakeholders should be ready to reach out to school/district leadership with related resources and input on testing program decisions and options.
3. Learn about team nursing and the role of the RN School Nurse Team Leader if hiring school health staff to support a testing program. Training is available here: <https://sites.google.com/view/nchealthyschools-training/home>
4. Stay informed by attending available Office Hours and reading email briefings during summer breaks.

# VACCINATION

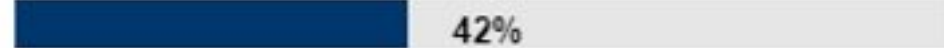


## K-12 Vaccine Efforts

Total Population



Total Population



12+ Years of Age



12+ Years of Age



- **NCDHHS has provided/can provide matchmaking with LEAs/Schools and LHDs without a partner**
- **School-based vaccine events across the state** in both private (e.g., Providence Day – 230 vaccinations in one day) and public schools (e.g., Rutherford 150 vaccinations in one evening clinic and Guilford County Schools has partnered with FEMA vaccination site, Cone Health and the Guilford County Division of Public Health to bring COVID-19 vaccines into communities across Guilford County)

# Vaccine Communication Resources



## COVID-19 Vaccine for Children and Teens

CDC recommends vaccination for everyone 12 years and older to help protect against COVID-19.

### Why does my child need a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines help protect kids from getting COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will also help keep them from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.

### When should my child be vaccinated?

All children who are 12 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine if your child hasn't gotten their vaccine yet, talk to their doctor about getting it as soon as possible.

### Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for my child?

Yes, COVID-19 vaccines provide safe and effective protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is now available for everyone ages 12 years and older. In the clinical trial for children 12 through 15 years old, no safety concerns were identified with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

The clinical trial also showed that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 100% effective at preventing COVID-19 with symptoms in children 12 through 15 years old. In addition, children's immune systems responded to the vaccine in a way similar to that of older teens and young adults. To get the most protection, your child will need 2 shots given 3 weeks (21 days) apart.

### Before, during and after your child's vaccination

- Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies your child may have.
- Comfort your child during the appointment.
- To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, your child should be seated or lying down during vaccination and for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given.
- After your child's COVID-19 vaccination, you will be asked to stay for 15-30 minutes so your child can be observed in the clinic.

### Can my child get a COVID-19 vaccine during the same visit with other vaccines?

Yes, your child can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection after getting vaccinated (immune response) and possible side effects of vaccines are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines. Talk with your healthcare provider to learn more.

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)



## YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.

### 10 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

- Everyone age 12+ is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- The vaccines are proven to help prevent COVID-19 and are effective in preventing hospitalization and death. Millions of people in the U.S. have already received them.
- COVID-19 vaccines are built on years of work to develop vaccines for similar viruses.
- You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccines.
- There were no serious safety concerns noted in the clinical trials. You may have temporary reactions like a sore arm, fever, headache or feeling tired and achy for a day or two after receiving the vaccine.
- The vaccines teach your body how to create a protein that helps you fight COVID-19. The protein and vaccine leave your body after they are finished and cannot be tracked.
- The vaccines are free to everyone, even if you don't have health insurance.
- Personal information about your health and identity is carefully managed to protect your privacy. It is not shared with CDC or ICE.
- Vax Up or Mask Up. If you are NOT fully vaccinated, you still need to wear a mask inside.
- Everyone has a spot for honest information on COVID-19 vaccines and where to get vaccinated. Go to [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov) or call the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center toll-free at 888-675-4567.

NC Department of Health and Human Services • [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov)  
 NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. • 06/2021

Everyone 12 and older in North Carolina is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

A free COVID-19 vaccine is available for everyone, regardless of your immigration status.

Getting vaccinated will not affect your immigration status.

You do not need ID or health insurance.

Looking for a vaccine appointment? Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://MySpot.nc.gov).

YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.

## A free COVID-19 vaccine is available for all, regardless of your migration status

A free #COVID19Vaccine is available for all, regardless of your migration status. Your personal information will not be shared with ICE for immigration enforcement and getting vaccinated will not have a negative impact on your migratory status. More: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/02/02/dhs-statement-equal-access-covid-19-vaccines-and-vaccine-distribution-sites>

# Additional New Initiatives to Promote Vaccinations

- **Summer Cash 4 College:**

- 12-18 year old are entered into a drawing to win \$125,000 for post-secondary education. These funds can be used at any institution.

- **Upcoming Back to School Guidance**

- Toolkit for school administrators on models to promote vaccinations and accompanying communication materials. Examples of incentive ideas and aligning vaccinations with other activity such as sports physicals.
  - Updated toolkit of public health guidance.

