The logo features the text "NC Rural Coalition Fighting COVID-19" in orange on a dark blue background. To the right, there is a graphic of overlapping triangles in shades of orange and grey, forming a larger triangular shape that points to the right.

NC Rural Coalition Fighting COVID-19

NC Rural Coalition Fighting COVID-19 Meeting April 28, 2021 * 9:00-10:00am Meeting Notes

Facilitator: Nick J. Galvez, Rural Hospital Manager, Office of Rural Health, NC DHHS

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tim Davis, Eastern Region Pharmacist, Division of Public Health
Epidemiology, Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch, NC DHHS

Nick Galvez opened the meeting by welcoming the participants.

Through the past year, Nick was part of the Health Care Coalition, which was tracking COVID-19 cases in NC, as well as hospitalizations, and the positive effects of the vaccine. Over the past year, the first case in Wake County was in March of 2020. There was a peak in July when the hospitals were strained. There was a bigger jump in December and January, when there were almost 12,000 new cases per day. The number of deaths peaked at the same time averaging 120 per day.

The number of hospitalizations increased as the number of cases increased. The July 2020 number was 1290 and the January figure was 3990. The subsequent decline in hospitalizations was due to younger people being infected and being able to recover without hospitalization as well as the introduction of vaccines. As of March, there were 867,000 cases and as of now, they have reached over one million. There were over 11,000 deaths during the one year time period. Due to the vaccines, the numbers are moving in the right direction.

All 3 vaccines help prevent COVID-19 and are effective in preventing hospitalization and death.

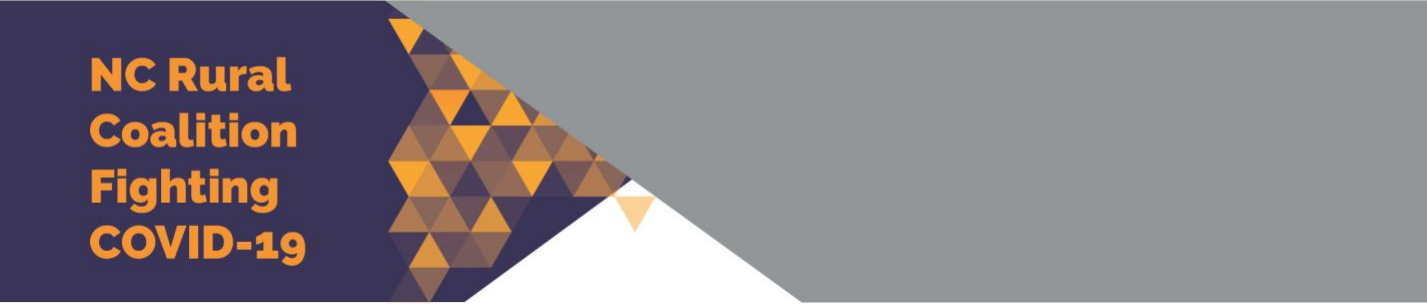
A vaccine management system was developed to track who is receiving vaccines. Nick showed a timeline of vaccine approvals and announced that 1.1 million North Carolinians have been fully vaccinated, and 1.9 million people have been partially vaccinated.

Dr. Davis has been involved in NC DHHS vaccination planning from the beginning, and outlined his objectives:

- Review COVID Vaccine 101 and the currently authorized vaccines
- Highlight the vaccination journey
- Share the vaccination progress
- Provide vaccine resources and ways to get involved

Vaccine 101 is used to spread the word through vaccine ambassadors and Dr. Davis highlighted the key principles:

- COVID-19 vaccines are tested, safe and effective.
- Scientists created the vaccine based on years of research.

The logo for the NC Rural Coalition Fighting COVID-19 is located in the top left corner. It features the text "NC Rural Coalition Fighting COVID-19" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a graphic consisting of a series of overlapping triangles in shades of orange and brown, forming a larger triangular shape that points to the right. The background of the top section is a dark blue gradient on the left, transitioning to a light grey gradient on the right.

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- You cannot get COVID from the COVID vaccine.
- Vaccines are available to all for free.
- Privacy and personal information is protected at all times.
- The advantages of being fully vaccinated.

Dr. Davis reviewed each of the vaccines that were authorized for use:

- Pfizer – an mRNA vaccine, authorized for people ages 16+
- Moderna – an mRNA vaccine, authorized for people ages 18+
- Johnson & Johnson – a viral vector vaccine, authorized for people ages 18+. Dr. Davis addressed the FDA and CDC pause to use this vaccine. After a thorough investigation, this has been lifted based on the determination that known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks.

The vaccine journey's goal was to provide access to everyone living or working in NC who wants to receive the vaccine, with inclusion and respect, frequent and trustworthy communications, data driven decisions and accountability, continuous improvement and partnerships.

The vaccine is currently available without restriction to priority groups. There are no long lines and wait lists for the vaccine. Providers are no longer required to use their supply within a week. They can keep some on hand for patients who come in and may need the vaccine, which is important for primary care practices especially. Case managers keep in frequent contact with providers to address needs and offer support.

NCDHHS has a dashboard that is updated daily and reflects data of vaccines administered and demographic data. Providers are required to report race and ethnicity data, which is included in the dashboard. Age and gender data are also reported. Data has been evaluated down to the census tract level and has been mapped. This allows the DHHS to target areas and develop strategies to help providers access remote areas for vaccine distribution.

Dr. Davis offered resources for participants:

- [NC DHHS Vaccine Guidance](#)
- [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://www.yourshot.nc.gov)
- [NC DHHS Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- [NC DHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit](#)
- [Find a Vaccine Location](#)
- [COVID Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

How to get involved:

- Sign up to be a [COVID Vaccine Provider](#)
- Become a Vaccine Ambassador ([English](#)) or ([Spanish](#))
- Host a COVID-19 vaccine virtual town hall

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- Request a speaker [here](#)
- Host a community vaccination event in conjunction with a local provider
 - Complete this [survey](#) to be listed as a community-based vaccine partner
- Help us BRING SUMMER BACK!
 - Register [here](#) to participate

Contact information:

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