



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



# NCDHHS COVID Response Updates: Child Care, K-12 and Higher Education

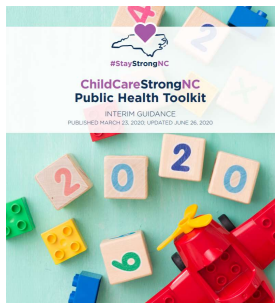
Governor's Education Cabinet

February 10, 2021

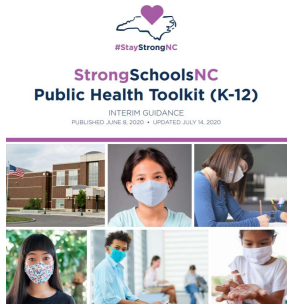
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## Public Health Guidance for Birth – Higher Education

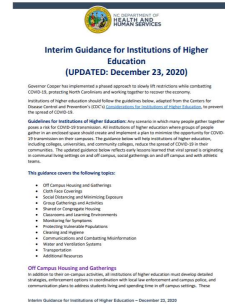
### ChildCareStrong (Birth – 5)



### StrongSchoolsNC (K-12)



### Higher Education



Available online <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance>

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## NCDHHS Actions to Support Child Care During COVID-19

### Health and Safety



Monthly updating [health and safety guidance](#) aligning with CDC



Held [webinars](#) with 3,500+ providers on Emergency in [March](#) and Reopening Guidelines in [May](#)



Stood up network of [child care health consultants](#)



Ordered and delivered PPE and sanitation supplies to ~4500 child care programs in Aug and Dec ~\$12.2M



Issued Executive Order to ensure child care only for essential workers during stay at home order

### Access and Affordability



Launched [child care hotline](#) with CCR&R system to provide referrals to 3,046 families to care for 4,277 children



Covered [copayments](#) and school age full time payments for families receiving subsidy for April – Aug ~\$35M



Launched [Emergency Child Care Subsidy program](#) for essential workers (up to 300% FPL) serving +17k children in April and +19 in May ~\$33.3M Launched [Emergency School Age Remote Learning](#) program serving ~7,700 \$12.1M

### Operational Support



Provided [subsidy stabilization](#) to all programs (April & May), open programs (June-August)



Provided [NC Pre-K stabilization](#) from March – current year



Provided [operational grants](#) based on fixed costs to open programs (ranging \$500 to \$30,000/ month for centers, ranging \$359 to \$2,500/month for homes) for April – Oct ~\$121M for ~4200 programs

### Workforce Support



Launched Hope4Healers [mental health helpline](#) for child care and health care workers experiencing stress and initiated trauma based trainings through the Smart Start Network



Provided 10% [additional payment](#) for bonuses to cover administrative costs like payroll tax



Provided [bonus payments](#) of \$950/month to teachers and \$525/month to staff for ~30k individuals in April and May and at 50%~Nov and Dec ~\$80.1M

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## NCDHHS Actions to Support K–12 During COVID-19

- **Public Health Guidance & Protocols**
  - Detailed guidance across a variety of school-related areas: [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#), [Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases](#), [Considerations for COVID-19 Testing, Recess, Specials, and General Activities](#), and more
- **PPE and Infection Control**
  - Coordinated with OEM and DPI to distribute: two rounds of two-month supply of thermometers, gowns, procedure masks, and face shields for school nurses; 5 reusable cloth face coverings to each student/staff member in public and private schools (over 9 million face coverings)
- **Communication Support**
  - Weekly calls with school leaders and local health departments around K-12 questions to operationalize public health requirements; NCDHHS manages a centralized email address for school reopening questions
- **COVID-19 Testing**
  - Piloting antigen tests for screening staff and symptomatic students in 17 districts, 11 charter schools – total of 200 schools; Learning from pilot to expand testing statewide

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## NCDHHS Actions to Support Higher Education During COVID-19

- Over 200,000 COVID-19 tests sent to IHEs
- Bi-weekly meetings with Higher Education Work Group since June 2020 with representatives include Presidents/Chancellors from Community Colleges, NC Independent Colleges and Universities, and UNC system, as well as system office administrators.
- IHE lessons learned
  - Testing strategies key to early identification
  - Community standards can have positive impact
  - Important to de-densify congregate living
  - Athletics have been a source of spread
- DHHS launched [Young Adult campaign](#) focused on the importance of prevention during social activities.

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## Vaccinations - Making Progress; Supply Very Limited

Vaccinations Data: December 14, 2020 – February 9, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

<b>Total Doses Administered</b>	<b>NC Providers</b>	<b>Federal Long-Term Care Program</b>
1,436,745	1,296,010	140,735

### Vaccinations Summary - NC Providers i

	Allocated by Federal Government	Arrived in North Carolina	Total Doses Administered	Percent of Arrived Doses Administered
FIRST DOSES	1,112,475	942,100	994,776	106%
SECOND DOSES	618,550	603,550	301,234	50%
TOTAL DOSES	1,731,025	1,545,650	1,296,010	84%

### Vaccinations Summary - Federal Long-Term Care Program i

	Allocated by Federal Government	Arrived in North Carolina	Total Doses Administered	Percent of Arrived Doses Administered
FIRST DOSES	150,900	150,900	104,619	69%
SECOND DOSES	150,900	150,900	36,116	24%
TOTAL DOSES	301,800	301,800	140,735	47%

- Currently Vaccinating 65+ and healthcare workers
- Some Frontline Essential Workers eligible beginning February 24<sup>th</sup>

Child Care Settings	K-12 School Settings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Care Centers</li> <li>Pre-Kindergarten Programs</li> <li>Head Start &amp; Early Head Start Programs</li> <li>Pre-School Programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional Public Schools</li> <li>Charter Schools</li> <li>Private/Non-Public Schools</li> </ul>

- Other Frontline Essential Workers starting March 10<sup>th</sup>

Supply remains low and it will take many months to get vaccine to everyone who wants it.

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## Moving to Recovery: Challenges and Opportunities

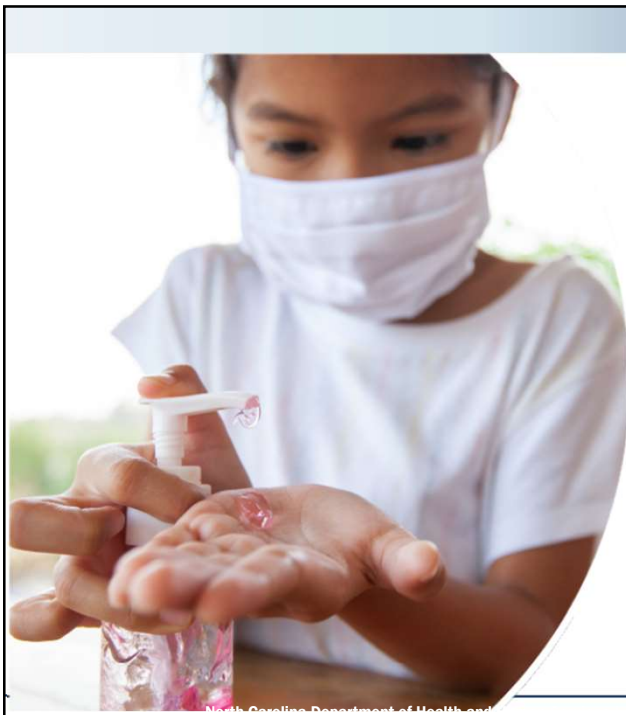
- Child Care, Pre-K and Kindergarten enrollment down: what does that mean for child well-being and learning loss?
- Growing food insecurity
- Concern for high-risk children and families: protective services reports down, family economic insecurity

*How can we recover stronger?*

*How do we leverage COVID relief funding, Leandro recommendations, and other learnings on how to wrap around supports for families and children?*



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**Don't forget the 3 W's!**

**WEAR**  
**WAIT**  
**WASH**

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