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## Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order to Strengthen Eviction Protections, New "Get Behind the Mask" Ads

NCDHHS Communications [news@dhhs.nc.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2020 1:39 PM

**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

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# COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE

**Oct. 30, 2020**

## **[Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order to Strengthen Eviction Protections, Helping to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)**

[Governor Roy Cooper recently issued Executive Order No. 171](#) to strengthen eviction protections to help North Carolina renters stay in their homes. With COVID-19 case counts increasing and many people continuing to work and learn remotely, preventing evictions is critical to the state's fight against this virus. This order supplements the existing [NC HOPE initiative](#) started two weeks ago that pays landlords and utilities directly to keep people in their homes with the lights on.

The economic toll of COVID-19 has left thousands of families struggling to make ends meet. According to a [report](#) from the National Council of State Housing Agencies, approximately 300,000 – 410,000 households across North Carolina are currently unable to pay rent and an estimated 240,000 eviction filings will be submitted by January 2021.

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) put a temporary residential eviction moratorium into effect nationwide from Sept. 4 through Dec. 31, 2020. The CDC order protects residential tenants from eviction for nonpayment of rent. However, confusion over who this order protects has caused inconsistent enforcement and unwarranted evictions in some parts of the state.

[Executive Order No. 171](#) requires landlords to make residential tenants aware of their rights under the CDC order. For eviction actions commencing after Executive Order No. 171, landlords must give residents the option to fill out a declaration form before starting any eviction action.

The Executive Order also sets forth procedures to ensure protection for residential tenants once they provide the required declaration form to the court or to the landlord.

[Read a FAQ about the Executive Order.](#)

## **[DHHS Launches New "Get Behind the Mask" Ads](#)**



As North Carolinians look toward the holidays and begin to plan celebratory gatherings, [DHHS is launching a new advertisement](#) as part of the statewide "Whatever Your Reason" campaign. This latest video, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), reminds everyone that the decision to wear a mask is not about "who you know, or how well you know them." The commercial urges everyone to ask themselves one simple question when deciding when to wear a mask: "Will I be with anyone I don't live with?" affirming, "If the answer is yes, get behind the mask." Find resources from the campaign to share at [ncdhhs.gov/WhateverYourReason](https://ncdhhs.gov/WhateverYourReason) and [ncdhhs.gov/CualEsTuRazon](https://ncdhhs.gov/CualEsTuRazon).



While it is strongly recommended that alternative Halloween activities instead of the traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating be increased as much as possible, [DHHS' guidance](#) offers ideas on how to have fun this Halloween while minimizing the risk. [We can still celebrate while staying safe. Happy Halloween!](#)

[Download the SlowCOVIDNC App to Slow the Spread](#)



More than 300,000 people have downloaded [SlowCOVIDNC](#), the official exposure notification app of North Carolina, but the more people who download and use SlowCOVIDNC, the more we can slow the spread. SlowCOVIDNC alerts users when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The app relies on users to anonymously submit their positive result to notify others.

The app is completely anonymous and does not collect, store or share personal information or location data. Download for free on the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). Learn more about the SlowCOVIDNC app in these [frequently asked questions](#), and share [resources and materials](#) about the app.

### **[Get Your Flu Vaccination](#)**



If you haven't yet already, now is the time to get your flu shot. Dr. Betsey Tilson, DHHS' Chief Medical Officer and the State Health Director, recently received her annual flu vaccine and explains in a [video](#) why flu vaccination is more important than ever. The [CDC recommends flu vaccination](#) every year for everyone 6 months and older to prevent infection with the flu. To find a flu vaccine near you, visit [VaccineFinder.org](#).

### **[COVID-19 Guidance and Support Resources](#)**

- North Carolina's [COVID-19 trends](#) continue to move in the wrong direction. Everyone must be vigilant to prevent the spread of the virus. As we move into the holiday season, be sure to practice your [3 Ws \(Wear, Wait and Wash\)](#), [get your flu shot](#) and download the [SlowCOVIDNC app](#) to slow the spread of this virus.
- DHHS is [requesting applications](#) to fund up to \$10.6 million in community-based projects that will prevent opioid overdoses for people involved in the justice system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolina has seen a resurgence in the opioid overdose crisis.
- As we move toward the holiday season, DHHS has developed [guidance](#) for fall-related events ([English](#), [Spanish](#)), as well as full guidance for private social gatherings ([English](#), [Spanish](#)) and an at-a-glance version ([English](#), [Spanish](#)).

### **[COVID-19 Testing](#)**

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should get [tested](#). If you are sick, use the [Check My Symptoms](#) tool to help you determine if you need a COVID-19 test. People who do not currently have symptoms but may have been exposed to COVID-19 should also get tested.

North Carolina has upcoming community testing events scheduled in [Bertie, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Gaston, Gates, Graham,](#)

**[Greene, Guilford, Harnett, Henderson, Hertford, Hoke, Iredell, Lenoir, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pasquotank, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Wake, Watauga and Yadkin counties.](#)** For an up-to-date list of events, visit the [Community Testing Events](#) webpage. Many events offer testing at no cost. For more details about a specific event, call ahead before you go for a test.

COVID-19 testing is also provided at some local health departments, doctor and clinician offices, hospitals and clinics, many pharmacy sites and retail outlets, and other community locations. Some people who work in long-term care facilities and other high-risk settings may be tested through their work. You can find testing sites by using the [Find My Testing Place](#) tool online.

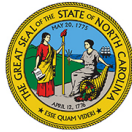
### Get the Latest Information

- Visit the [NCDHHS COVID-19 Response website](#) for information, a [data dashboard](#), [updates](#), [live briefings](#) and more.
- Go to [North Carolina's COVID-19 Information Hub](#) for resources, information and assistance across state government, including the latest [news releases](#).
- Follow NCDHHS on [social media](#) for advance notice of press briefings and a recap.



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