

*****SPAM*** For Immediate Release**

From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <waddelljla@ncleg.net>
Date 2021-09-07 10:10



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 06, 2021

CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell

(919) 733-5650

Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net

<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



Greetings:

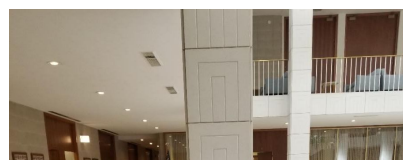
As we wrap up the budget we have also been diligently working on redistricting. Once this process is finished, the business of the long session will be complete. Many bills coming through the Senate chamber have been local bills. Local bills only pertain to a specific city or county.

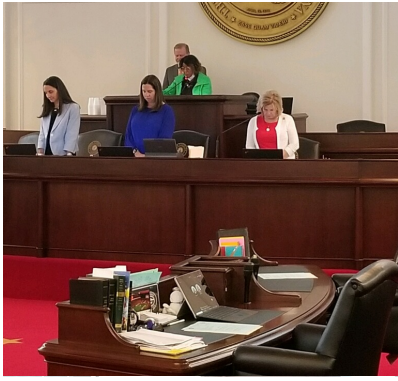
Sincerely,
Joyce Waddell

Meanwhile...at the General Assembly



Senator Waddell





informs Reepicheep of the Senate happenings.



Senator Waddell gives a prayer for unity and peace



Senator Waddell meets with constituents from Mecklenburg County.

Senator Waddell shares upcoming legislation and gives clarifying information

Senator Waddell checks out a vendor and provides information on upcoming legislation



Vaccination Numbers

Over 5,210,000 people in North Carolina have been fully vaccinated and the state's vaccine rate has reached 50%. COVID-19 patients requiring intensive care are higher as the delta variant surge continues. The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services reported Tuesday that 941 COVID patients, a pandemic high, are being treated in ICUs, making up about 26% of the 3,612 COVID hospitalizations statewide. Having nearly tripled in August, hospitalizations due to the virus are the highest since January, when they peaked at 3,990.

Deaths due to the virus have more than tripled from last month. As of Tuesday's report, 729 North Carolinians have died due to COVID-19 in August. In July 207 died. The rise in deaths and hospitalizations is due to the delta variant, a mutation of the coronavirus that is more than three times as contagious as the original strain. It makes up nearly 94% of sequenced virus in the state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among those eligible for the shot in North Carolina, ages 12 and up, 58% are fully vaccinated, compared to 61% nationwide. For those age 65 and up, the North Carolina rate is 86%, a bit higher than the 82% national figure. Just over half, 52%, of the total U.S. population is vaccinated.

School Board Law

North Carolina school boards will have to vote monthly if they want to continue requiring face masks, under a new law signed Monday. The Governor announced Monday he had signed a wide-ranging coronavirus bill for schools that touches on things such as graduation requirements, grading of schools, driving privileges for students and use of remote instruction. The new law also ensures that those school boards that mandate masking have to continue approving the requirement each month.

The requirement comes as 96 of the state's 115 school districts have opted to require masking. In the past month, 43 school districts reversed their decision to go mask optional due to the surge in COVID-19 cases from the delta variant. The new law will allow all of the state's public schools to offer virtual instruction this school year. Lawmakers had cited how schools might need to go remote due to the surge in cases.

Under the law, school districts and charter schools can also switch individual classes and schools to remote instruction due to a COVID-19 emergency. The law is particularly welcomed by families who have been lobbying charter schools to offer a remote option like they had last school year. Charter school leaders said they could not provide the option unless state law was changed.

The law provides help to teenagers whose ability to get driver's permits and provisional licenses were hurt by the pandemic. The state ties academic performance to the license process for students. The law temporarily waives the requirement that a student had to show they were making progress toward high school graduation to get a driving eligibility certificate. The legislation also restores the permit or license of any person who lost it because they did not have a driving eligibility certificate. It would apply to revocations that occurred on or after March 1, 2020 to when the bill becomes law.

Here are some other provisions in the legislation:

- Waives the requirement that each public school get an A through F grade for their performance during the 2020-21 school year. The grades are largely based on student passing rates on state exams. The new test results will be released Wednesday.
- Waives the requirement that high school students who graduated last school year had to pass the CPR graduation requirement.

Adds new wording in state law to cover the calendar used by some year-round schools. The school leaders say they need this permanent legislative fix to keep their 12 single-track year-round schools on track 4.

Unvaccinated Deaths

New data shows that most people dying from COVID-19 in North Carolina are unvaccinated. This comes as hospitalizations are hitting a record high in the state. According to state officials, unvaccinated people were 15 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than vaccinated people during the four-week period ending August 21. The data is from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' weekly respiratory surveillance report. It also shows that unvaccinated people were four times more likely to catch the virus than vaccinated residents. The results were even starker for teenagers — unvaccinated 12 to 17-year-olds were six times more likely to get COVID-19 than vaccinated people of the same age.

It appears that more North Carolinians are taking heed and getting their vaccine. Although the vaccine will not keep you from getting the virus, it is a great layer of protection from some of the other major issues people are facing - hospitalization mainly. Continue to wash those hands, wear your mask, and social distance as much as possible.

###

Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by joyce.waddell@ncleg.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!