

# Get Your COVID Booster to Fight Omicron + NCDHHS Teamwork Helps Meet Testing and Supply Challenges



**From** NCDHHS Communications <news@dhhs.nc.gov>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
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# COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) NC UPDATE


*Feb. 4, 2022*

## Get Your COVID-19 Booster to Fight Omicron

**Which COVID-19 vaccine booster should I receive, and when?**

Which vaccine did you get?	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
You can get your booster if:	It's been 5+ months since you got your 2nd shot AND you are:	It's been 5+ months since you got your 2nd shot AND you are:	It's been 2+ months since you got your vaccine AND you are:
If eligible, you can get a booster if:	Ages 12-17 Pfizer-BioNTech Only	Age 18+ Moderna or Pfizer Recommended, Johnson & Johnson	Age 18+ Moderna or Pfizer Recommended, Johnson & Johnson

Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://MySpot.nc.gov) to learn more and locate a provider near you.



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.

Staying up-to-date on your vaccines to include a booster dose is the strongest protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. **In the latest [Respiratory Surveillance Report](#), people vaccinated with a booster made up only 6% of those hospitalized and only 4% of those in the intensive care unit.**

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While [case numbers](#) and [hospitalizations](#) are starting to trend downward, the highly contagious Omicron variant of COVID-19 continues to send near record numbers of people to North Carolina hospitals, straining hospital capacity.

In response to a support request from NCDHHS, a [National Disaster Medical System team arrived at Atrium Health in Pineville](#) this week to support the medical surge in the emergency department. Additionally, 25 counties will receive federal ambulance support.

For more information on boosters, go [here](#). To find a location to get your vaccine or booster, go [here](#).

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### **[NCDHHS Teamwork Helps Meet COVID Testing Demand and PPE Supply Challenges](#)**

To help meet the unprecedented demand for testing and promote greater equity in test availability, the NCDHHS' COVID-19 response team [has shipped](#) 441,038 rapid antigen test kits across North Carolina since Dec. 23, 2021. Testing kit delivery was prioritized for local and community settings, including K-12 schools, local health departments, long-term care facilities and other high-priority settings.

To date, NCDHHS has also [distributed](#) more than seven million N95 masks to local partners in every county to help protect against the spread of COVID-19. [Healthier Together](#) partner organizations provided critical support on the ground in requesting and distributing 568,000 of the N95s to further reduce barriers in historically marginalized communities. A flyer providing tips for wearing an N95 mask is available for download in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

A list of hundreds of no-cost community testing events, free at-home tests and mail-in collection kits are available online at [ncdhhs.gov/GetTested](https://ncdhhs.gov/GetTested).

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### **[Governor Cooper Visits Pharmacy in Wilmington to Encourage North Carolinians to Get Their Lifesaving Vaccines](#)**

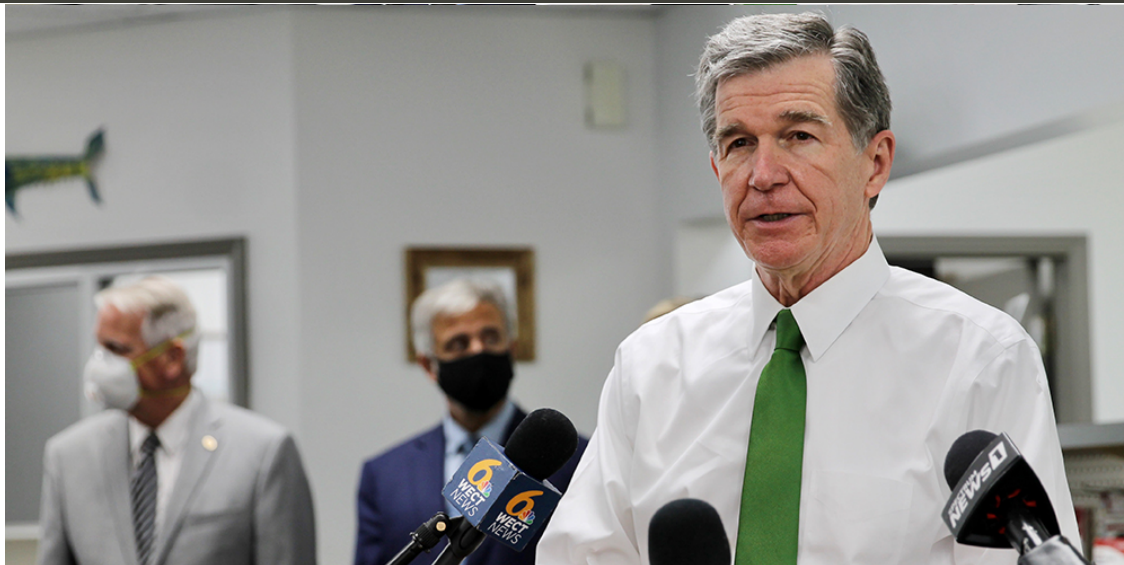


Photo Credit: Alexandria Sands, Port City Daily

Yesterday, Governor Roy Cooper and NCDHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley visited and toured King's Pharmacy & Compounding Lab, a New Hanover County pharmacy distributing COVID-19 vaccines.

"Our message to North Carolinians is to layer protection to prevent serious illness from COVID-19: get vaccinated, get a booster when eligible, and wear a tight-fitting mask," said NCDHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "We're grateful to our pharmacy partners who are a critical part of getting vaccines and boosters into arms and blunting the impacts of this virus."

Learn more about the state's vaccine distribution at [myspot.nc.gov](https://myspot.nc.gov) (English) or [Vacunate.nc.gov](https://vacunate.nc.gov) (Spanish). Find a nearby vaccine provider using NCDHHS' online tool, [Find a Vaccine Location](#). The state's COVID-19 vaccine hotline number is 888-675-4567.

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**[It's Your Shot to Get Back in the Game](#)**



Getting your COVID-19 vaccine protects you, your teammates and your community. Help slow the spread of COVID-19 and stop disruptions to our favorite sporting events. COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone 5 and older. Schedule yours today at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov).

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### [Other COVID News](#)

- Wastewater monitoring data from North Carolina [are now part](#) of the CDC's national COVID Data Tracker [website](#). The NC [Wastewater Monitoring Network](#) includes 24 sites, with five new sites in Wake County added last week.
- Last night, NCDHHS hosted a [COVID-19 Cafecito and Tele-town hall in Spanish](#) to help the LatinX community stay safe during the ongoing surge in cases.
- The CDC [updated](#) vaccination data from the U.S. Department of Defense and Federal Bureau of Prisons to more accurately reflect the county of residence for the person vaccinated, which resulted in the vaccination rate changing for the state and for several counties on the [North Carolina COVID-19 Dashboard](#).
- [North Carolina households](#) receiving [Food and Nutrition Services](#) benefits will [continue to receive the maximum amount](#) for their household size for the month of February.

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

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed to the virus should get

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tested as soon as possible. Seek medical attention immediately for serious symptoms such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.

- NC Medicaid beneficiaries can [receive free at-home COVID-19 tests](#) from their local pharmacies. Beneficiaries should select an at-home test at their preferred pharmacy and present their NC Medicaid ID card to the pharmacy for no out-of-pocket cost. The pharmacist will be able to bill Medicaid on the patient's behalf.
- Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four, free at-home COVID-19 tests. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them at [covidtests.gov](https://covidtests.gov).
- To find a PCR testing sites near you, visit [ncdhhs.gov/GetTested](https://ncdhhs.gov/GetTested). With increased demand for testing, try a different community-based site if your normal one is busy.
- For an up-to-date list of no-cost community testing events, visit the [No-Cost Testing Events](#) webpage.

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### [Get the Latest Information](#)

- Visit the [NCDHHS COVID-19 website](#) for information, a [data dashboard](#), [updates](#), [live briefings](#), the [latest guidance](#) and more.
- Go to [North Carolina's COVID-19 Information Hub](#) for resources, information and assistance across state government, including the latest [news releases](#).
- Check out [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](https://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov) to learn more about [finding your spot](#) to get your shot, [videos](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine, and other resources.
- Follow NCDHHS on [social media](#).



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Our mailing address is: NCDHHS, 2001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

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