



**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
**Public Health**

**Gibbie Harris, MSPH, BSN**  
**Health Director**

**(704) 336-4700**

**Mecklenburg County Public Health Director's Directive**

**To Protect Mecklenburg County Residents From COVID-19**

**January 29, 2021**

Mecklenburg County has experienced the highest number of COVID-19 cases and related-deaths of any County in North Carolina since the beginning of the Pandemic. From late September to late-January the County has seen a 791% increase in average daily cases, 101 cases per day to 671 cases per day; a 543% increase in patients with COVID-19 in the hospital: 81 per day to 455 per day; and an increase in positivity rate from 5.7% to 11.7%. To date, seven hundred and sixty-six Mecklenburg County residents have died due to COVID-19.

Although these numbers represent a slight decrease over the past three weeks, this exponential growth in the number of cases, hospitalizations and the related deaths require ongoing action on the part of every member of our community. Each of us have the responsibility to protect ourselves and others. Through our actions, individually and as a community, we have the ability to save lives and protect the systems in our community that are necessary to take care of those who are ill, educate our children, care for our elderly, and provide the essential services that we all depend on.

Due to our current situation and as an extension of the Secretarial Direction from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Mecklenburg County Public Health continues this specific directive with a few modifications for the next three weeks for the people of Mecklenburg County.

**I. Immediate Actions**

Individuals in Mecklenburg County are directed to adhere to the following:

Stay Home

1. Stay home. Only leave your home for essential activities such as going to work (only if your work is essential) or childcare, for health care purposes, to care for family members or to buy food or other essential items.

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2. Utilize full-virtual options where in-person activity is not required.
3. Avoid leaving your home if you are over 65 or at high-risk for developing serious illness. Use delivery services or alternative pick-up methods for food and retail to the greatest extent possible to avoid in-person interaction with individuals you do not live with.
4. Do not participate in recreational activities in which you may have close contact with others.
5. Avoid any non-essential travel.
6. Remain at home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., unless an exception as set forth in the Governor's Executive Order applies.

#### Face Coverings and Physical Distance

1. Wear a mask at all times and maintain physical distance (at least 6 feet) from people when outside your home.
  - Masks continue to be the most highly effective way of mitigating the spread of COVID-19, along with social distancing and washing hands.
  - Masks do not replace the need for social distancing or washing hands.
  - All three actions are needed to reduce the risk of spread.
2. Do not enter any indoor public spaces, including any eating or drinking establishments, where anyone is unmasked or when you see crowds of people who are not physically distanced.

#### Gatherings

1. Avoid gathering with individuals that you do not live with. Multiple households should not co-mingle. If you cannot avoid gathering, gather outdoors with as few people as possible, but no more than 25 people. Ensure all attendees are wearing a mask at all times and avoid activities that require the removal of your face covering, such as consuming food and beverage.
2. Avoid settings where people may congregate in large numbers, such as entertainment venues, airports, shopping malls, sporting events, etc.

#### Testing and Contact Tracing

1. If you have gathered with individuals that you do not live with outside of work or other essential activities, assume you are infected, quarantine for at least 5 days and then get tested. It is likely you may not have symptoms; however, you could be infectious and dangerous to others, especially those at increased risk for severe illness.
2. Quarantine and get tested if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
3. Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
4. Answer the call and participate in contact tracing to protect against further spread if you receive a call or text from Mecklenburg County Public Health case investigators.
5. If you test positive for COVID-19, contact anyone who you have been in

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close contact with for greater than 15 minutes total, without wearing a mask and maintaining 6 feet distance.

Immunizations

1. Get a flu shot.
2. Get the COVID-19 vaccine, when it is available to you.

**II. Effective Date**

This Public Health Director's Directive replaces the initial Directive and shall remain in effect through February 28, 2021, unless otherwise modified, rescinded, or replaced.

Signed this the 29th day of January 2021.



Gibbie Harris, MSPH, BSN  
Public Health Director