

# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA PLAN FOR LIFTING RESTRICTIONS – THREE-PHASED APPROACH OVERVIEW



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CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC)

# Overview of Governor Cooper's Three-Phased Approach to Lifting Restrictions

## Lifting Restrictions

It is important to note that if infections spike or benchmark trends begin to move in the wrong direction, the state may move to a previous phase to protect public health. Additionally, if the data in Mecklenburg County does not support progressing in the same manner as the state, there is the potential for Mecklenburg County to remain in a certain phase or return to a previous phase while the state continues with the phased approach. The best science and data available will be used to make all decisions as well as continuing consultation with public health, business and industry leaders.

## Phase 1 – Target implementation date of May 9, 2020

- The Stay at Home Order will be modified to allow travel not currently defined as essential, including let people leave home for commercial activity at businesses allowed to be open (e.g., retailers such as clothing, sporting goods, houseware).
- Ensure that open stores implement appropriate employee and consumer social distancing, enhanced hygiene and cleaning protocols, symptom screening of employees, accommodations for vulnerable workers, and provide education to employees and workers to combat misinformation.
- Shopping malls will be permitted to open. No sit down service at restaurants
- Continue to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people.
- Reopen parks that have been closed, subject to the same gathering limitation (Mecklenburg County parks are already open). Outdoor exercise will continue to be encouraged.
- Continue to recommend face coverings in public spaces when 6 feet of distancing isn't possible.
- Encourage employers to continue teleworking policies.
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.
- Local emergency orders with more restrictive measures may remain in place.

## Phase 2 – To be implemented at least 2 weeks after completion of Phase 1

- Lift the Stay at Home Order with strong encouragement for vulnerable populations to continue staying at home to stay safe.
- Allow limited opening of restaurants, bars, fitness centers, personal care services and other businesses that can follow safety protocols, including the potential need to reduce capacity.
- Allow gathering at places such as houses of worship and entertainment venues at reduced capacity.
- Increase the number of people allowed at gatherings.
- Open public playgrounds.
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.

## Phase 3 – To be implemented at least 4-6 weeks after completion of Phase 2

- Lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing and minimizing exposure to settings where distancing isn't possible.
- Allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worship and entertainment venues.
- Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings.

- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.

## Measuring Progress

The following metrics will be used to help determine the status of North Carolina’s phased reopening. The below chart is from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) as of April 30, 2020. Additional information can be found on the [NCDHHS COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard](#).

Metric	NC Status (as of April 30, 2020)	Meck County Status (as of April 30, 2020)
Sustained leveling or decrease trajectory in COVID-like illness surveillance over 14 days	NC’s syndromic surveillance trend of COVID-like illness is level but has been on an uptick for the last seven days.	Meck County is not tracking this metric but is deferring to the State’s measure.
Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over 14 days	NC’s trajectory of lab-confirmed cases is increasing.	Meck County’s trajectory is stable.
Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over 14 days.	NC’s trajectory of positive tests as a percentage of total tests is decreasing.	Meck County’s trajectory is slightly decreasing.
Sustained leveling or decreased trajectory in hospitalizations over 14 days	NC’s trajectory of hospitalizations is leveling.	Meck County’s trajectory is slightly decreasing.