

N.C. Insurance Commissioner Orders Deferral of Premium Payments

To help consumers affected by the COVID-19 health emergency. Payments will be due once deferral expires.

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey has activated an emergency declaration that will defer insurance premium payments for residents in all 100 counties. This order was activated March 27 as a result of President Trump's March 25 Major Disaster Declaration for the State of North Carolina.

North Carolina General Statute § 58-2-46 allows the Commissioner to issue a deferral order once a major disaster has been declared by the President.

The Commissioner's order applies to all insurance companies defined in the statute including health insurance, residential property and automobile insurance. This order also applies to collection agencies, motor clubs and premium finance companies licensed by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The order will defer not only premium payments but will also defer statutory time requirements. Notices of cancellation, for example, will be deferred.

Once the deferral expires, policyholders will be required to bring their payments current to avoid cancellation.

"My hope is this deferral will provide policyholders breathing room while they get back on their feet as a result of economic hardships due to the COVID-19 health emergency," said Commissioner Causey.

Prior to the President's declaration, many companies were working with their clients to extend grace periods for late payments. The Commissioner extends his sincere gratitude to those companies working to alleviate the economic hardship of those suffering from the recent health emergency. This order, however, will require all companies to defer payments as required by the statute.

Consumers are encouraged to check with their insurance company or representative to determine how this order affects their insurance policy.

For more information, visit the NCDI website at www.ncdoi.gov or call 855-408-1212.

NC Medicaid Increases Support

To Protect Those Most at Risk for Serious Illness from COVID-19 and to Maintain Access to Services

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid) will temporarily increase payments rates to long-term care providers and facilities to support them in caring for Medicaid beneficiaries who are at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Medicaid will also be temporarily increasing rates to behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability and specialized therapy providers for vulnerable children and adults in outpatient and residential settings.

This temporary rate increase will allow long-term services providers to implement additional measures to protect the health of those they serve in this time of crisis. Long-term care facilities have been asked to set up isolation space for residents who test positive with COVID-19, proactively monitor staff for symptoms of COVID-19 and provide masks to residents with any type of respiratory symptoms.

To ensure access to behavioral health, I/DD and specialized therapy providers for vulnerable children and adults in outpatient and residential settings, local management entities/managed care organizations (LME-MCOs) agencies will receive a temporary increase in their rates and can use the funds to address community gaps in services such as purchasing needed teletherapy equipment.

"Our Medicaid providers are among the many heroic health care professionals on the front line of North Carolina's response to COVID-19," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D. "We are working with those who serve our most vulnerable to give them the additional financial support they need to respond to the COVID-19 crisis."

To target some of our most vulnerable Medicaid beneficiaries, the following Medicaid providers and services will receive a five (5) percent increase in fee-for-service reimbursement rates, retroactive to March 10, 2020: skilled nursing facilities; hospice facilities; health departments; home health and private duty nursing; personal care services; physical, occupational, speech and audiology therapy; Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE); and Community Alternatives for Children (CAP/C) and for Adults (CAP/DA). LME-MCOs will receive a one and one half (1.5%) percent increase in their per person rate effective April 1, 2020.

NC Medicaid is also pursuing hardship support to rural, independent hospitals as needed. The NC Medicaid team is working with affected providers on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on NC Medicaid COVID-19 policy modifications, visit the Medicaid website at www.medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus. Current COVID-19 guidance

Church News

* All events are subject to change because of the COVID-19 situation. You may want to seek confirmation of events.

APRIL 3 & 4

Fried Fish Plate

Sale at Forestville AME Zion Church has been canceled

APRIL 4

Church Yard Sale

At Rev Little's Hair Salon, 7am. Church attire & household items

APRIL 4

Outside Mission

Crusade Service by No Soul Left Behind at You Are So Special Beauty Salon, across from Captain D's, 5pm

APRIL 5

Ushers' Ministry

Program at West Rocky Ford Baptist Church, 4497 White Store Rd in Polkton, 3pm with Pastor Anthony Hall of Flakes Chapel Baptist Church

APRIL 8

Guest Speaker

Pastor Charles Sturdivant at New Meltonville, 7:30pm

APRIL 9

Guest Speaker

Overseer Sylvia McLendon of Divine Unity at West Deep Creek MBC, 7:30pm

APRIL 10

Guest Speaker

Pastor Terry Little of West Deep Creek MBC at New Meltonville, 7:30pm

APRIL 19

Annual Usher Day

At East Rock Ford MBC, 2:30pm with Rev David Gaddy, Pastor of East Macedonia Church. Dinner served after morning service

APRIL 26

Men's Day Program

At New Life Trinity Church, 3pm

MAY 31

100 Women in

Hats Fundraiser at New Life Trinity Church, 2:30pm for Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition with Min Peggy Hubbard of West Rocky Ford Baptist Church in Wadesboro

JUNE 14

Family & Friends Day

At New Life Trinity Church, 2:30pm. Theme "Value Your Family & Friends"

ONGOING

* All events are subject to change because of the COVID-19 situation. You may want to seek confirmation of events.

Bible Study

At Evangelistic Outreach Center, first and third Sundays, 4:30pm

Weekly Bible Study

At Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Wednesdays, 6pm. All are welcome

Bible Study

Every Monday, 6pm at Johnson Chapel Church

and resources are available online at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus.

Veteran Services Officer Creating Hometown Heros Wall at Office

Wadesboro Walmart's "Honoring Hometown Heros" wall, which the community has come to love and cherish, will find a new home at the Anson County Veteran's Service Office, located in the Belk Building in uptown Wadesboro (111 North Greene Street).

Andrea N Lamonds, Veterans Service Officer, said, "Walmart had this really neat wall honoring local Hometown Heros. Every time I went into the Walmart I stopped and looked at the wall to see if I recognized any of the photos. When I found out Walmart was closing, I reached out to the manager to see if I could move their wall to our Veteran Services Office. By then, a lot of the photos were missing. People came and took them back, I guess. I would like to ask for people to bring in their military photos so that we can continue this wall."

If you would like to display your military photo or a military photo of a loved one, please send a copy of the photo to Andrea Lamonds via email at alamonds@co.anson.nc.us, or by mail to Anson County Veteran Services Office, 111 N. Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170. The Veteran Services Office is closed to the public during the COVID-19 shutdown, but available by phone (704 465-0086) or email. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email. When the office reopens, please drop it by. Anson County is so proud of your service and would love to honor you!

Sporting Clays Shoot for Childhood Cancer Postponed

The Max Life Foundation, based in Mt. Gilead, provides financial assistance to families who are in need of help paying monthly expenses during their child's cancer treatment. Through contact with an oncology social worker, an application is submitted on behalf of a family to the foundation. Their mission is to help ease the financial burden and hopefully some stress from families so they can focus on their child's diagnosis and treatment regimen.

The foundation had a sporting clays fundraising event scheduled for April 3, but that event has been postponed. A new date has not yet been set.

More information is available at www.themaxlife.org or by calling Dianna Lariviere at 910-387-2891.

COVID-19 AND FOOD SAFETY FAQ

IS CORONAVIRUS A CONCERN WITH TAKEOUT?

CDC, FDA and USDA are not aware of any reports at this time that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging. Current evidence shows the biggest risk of transmission of COVID-19 is being around individuals who are symptomatic (and to a lesser extent, infected but not showing symptoms.) Food businesses should be following employee health policies and health department recommendations to keep these individuals home.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF FOOD FROM TAKEOUT OR DRIVE-THRU FOOD?

- There is no current indication that takeout or drive-thru meals will increase illness.
- This option is a good risk management choice, especially for high risk and elderly groups because it helps maintain social distancing and reduces the number of touch points.

CAN I GET COVID-19 FROM TOUCHING FOOD OR PACKAGING EXPOSED TO CORONAVIRUS?

- The risk of transfer of viruses is very low, based on current research.
- To further minimize risk, handling food packaging should be followed by handwashing and/or using hand sanitizer.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF FOOD DELIVERED TO HOME?

- Similar to takeout, food delivery helps maintain social distancing and reduces the number of touch points between preparation and serving of food.
- Many delivery programs have also instituted no touch/no interaction options, which further reduces risk.

WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR BODY IF YOU DO INGEST CORONAVIRUS THROUGH FOOD?

- If you consume food that is contaminated with coronavirus, your stomach acid should inactivate the virus since it is very acidic (pH 2.0).
 - Even if your stomach acid did not inactivate the virus, there is no evidence the virus causing COVID-19 can start infecting through the gastrointestinal tract.
- The only possible way to get sick is if, during eating, the virus comes in contact with a specific type respiratory cells.
 - This scenario is highly unlikely and not concerning given what is known about modes of transmission currently discussed regarding COVID-19.

NC STATE EXTENSION

Stay informed: go.ncsu.edu/covid-19

Updated March 20, 2020



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Events

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APRIL 1

Free Groceries & Atrium Health Bus for families in need Mobile Food Pantry at Marshville First Baptist Church, located at 636 Old Highway 74 in Marshville. Register 8-10am. Call for details 704-694-2445

APRIL 2

Ribbon Cutting
For the new addition to the Drake Gallery and Drake Gallery Studio, 5:30pm. 108 South Rutherford St in Wadesboro. Info 704-694-4950

APRIL 4

Charity Motorcycle Ride to benefit Operation Christmas Child. Registration 9am at Papa Joe's Restaurant, kickstands up 10:30am. \$15 single rider, \$20 double. Info 704-475-0487

APRIL 7

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. This is the regular monthly meeting. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201

ONGOING EVENTS

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Food Commodities Food Distributed Free every Wednesday at 9am & 2nd Saturday of each month at 9am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr, Hwy 742N across from Burnsville Fire Dept. Info 704-826-8182
Food Pantry
Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182