

Unauthorized Hydrant Use

The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Water Department is a violation of state and federal law. Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system. Please report suspicious activity to the Anson County Sheriff's Office or the Water Department.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department.

Information is available at 704-694-5208.



As Key Indicators Remain Stable, North Carolina Moves to Safer At Home Phase 2

Phase 2, Safer At Home, began Friday, May 22 at 5 p.m.

Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen announced that North Carolina would move into Safer At Home Phase 2 of lifting COVID-19 restrictions on Friday, May 22 at 5 p.m. After two weeks in Phase 1, the state's overall key indicators remain stable but the continued increases in daily case counts signal a need to take a more modest step forward in Phase 2 than originally envisioned.

"North Carolina is using the data to guide our decisions about when to lift COVID-19 restrictions, and overall our key indicators remain stable," said Governor Cooper. "Safer At Home Phase 2 is another careful step forward, and we have to continue taking this virus seriously to prevent a dangerous spike in infections."

"From the beginning, North Carolinians have joined together to confront this crisis. We need to rely upon one another to practice the three Ws as we begin leaving our homes more. When we wear a face covering, wait six feet apart, and wash our hands often, we are showing we care for our loved ones and neighbors," said Dr. Mandy Cohen.

Based on the metrics laid out in April by Governor Cooper and Secretary Cohen, North Carolina is evaluating a combination of the data from the following categories that shows the state is stable but still has increasing daily new lab-confirmed case counts.

• **Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days** North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing.

• **Trajectory of Lab-Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of lab-confirmed cases is increasing.

• **Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive has been decreasing and is starting to level.

• **Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations is level.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to be able to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread. These areas include:

• **Laboratory Testing** - North Carolina has more than doubled the daily testing rate with more than 8,000 tests completed daily on average. More than 300 testing sites across North Carolina are posted on the DHHS testing information website.

• **Tracing Capability** - The Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative has already hired more than 150 new contact tracers adding to the 250 already working at our local health departments.

• **Personal Protective Equipment** - Supply chains continue to improve.

What's included in Safer At Home Phase 2? Phase 2 lifts the Stay At Home order moving into a Safer At Home recommendation, especially for people at high risk for serious illness. Teleworking is also urged when possible.

Mass gathering limits in Phase 2 will be no more than 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors in most circumstances. These limits apply to the following: event venues; conference centers; stadiums and sports arenas; amphitheatres; and groups at parks or beaches.

Some businesses will remain closed in Phase 2 including: bars; night clubs; gyms and indoor fitness facilities; indoor entertainment venues such as movie theaters, and bowling alleys.

Certain businesses will be open at limited capacity with other requirements and recommendations including: restaurants at 50% dine-in capacity with distancing and cleaning requirements; personal care businesses, including salons and barbers, at 50% capacity with distancing and cleaning requirements; pools at 50% capacity with distancing and cleaning requirements. Employees of personal care businesses will be required to wear face coverings.

Childcare facilities, day camps and overnight camps will be open with enhanced cleaning and screening requirements. Retail businesses allowed to open in Phase 1 at 50% capacity will continue at that level.

Public health recommendations are provided for worship services to practice enhanced social distancing and other cleaning and hygiene practices.

The Safer At Home Phase 2 runs through at least Friday, June 26.

North Carolina's April Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate was 12.2 percent, increasing 7.9 percentage points from March's revised rate. The national rate increased 10.3 percentage points to 14.7 percent.

North Carolina's April 2020 unemployment rate increased 8.1 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed decreased 643,157 over the month to 4,112,383 and decreased 744,300 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 357,418 over the month to 573,118 and increased 367,922 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 571,700 to 3,996,000 in April. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 249,800; Education & Health Services, 63,200; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 63,200; Professional & Business Services, 55,700; Manufacturing, 51,200; Other Services, 33,200; Government, 26,000; Construction, 12,500; Financial Activities, 8,900; and Information, 8,000. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Since April 2019:

April 2019 (NC 4.1% / US 36%); **May 2019** (NC 4.0% / US 3.6%); **June 2019** (NC 4.0% / US 3.7%); **July 2019** (NC 3.9% / US 3.7%); **August 2019** (NC 3.8% / US 3.7%); **September 2019** (NC 3.7% / US 3.5%); **October 2019** (NC 3.7% / US 3.6%); **November 2019** (NC 3.6% / US 3.5%); **December 2019** (NC 3.6% / US 3.5%); **January 2020** (NC 3.6% / US 3.6%); **February 2020** (NC 3.6% / US 3.5%); **March 2020** (NC 4.3% / US 4.4%); **April 2020** (NC 12.2% / US 14.7%)

Since April 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 568,200 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 549,000 and Government decreasing by 19,200. The only over-the-year increase among major industries was in Financial Activities, 1,200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 251,500; Education & Health Services, 68,900; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 68,900; Professional & Business Services, 57,100; Manufacturing, 56,200; Other Services, 31,100; Government, 19,200; Construction, 11,600; Information, 4,800; and Mining & Logging, 100.

NC Criminal Justice Fellows Program Opens Applications for Second Annual Class

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows (CJ Fellows) program is now accepting applications for its second class and encourages high school seniors and graduates in North Carolina to use the opportunity to pursue careers in law enforcement. The program, run by the North Carolina Department of Justice and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, is accepting applications until May 31, 2020.

"North Carolina's communities are facing serious challenges – the opioid epidemic, sexual assault, consumer scams, and online crimes," said NC Attorney General Josh Stein. "To meet these challenges, we need well-trained law enforcement officers who are committed to protecting our communities. To North Carolina's young people, I ask that you consider this opportunity to serve our state. I know that you are up to the task and can help make our communities safer and stronger."

The CJ Fellows program began last year with an incoming class of 14 students, who are currently pursuing education opportunities in community colleges across the state. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the program has 100 available fellowships in 65 eligible counties in North Carolina. This fellowship will fund an Applied Associate Degree in criminal justice or Committee-approved related field of study from any North Carolina community college.

"The CJ Fellows program is helping me continue my education beyond high school," said Hannah Billings, a Criminal Justice Fellow at Wilkes Community College. "After I graduate at the community college, I plan to do BLET, then hopefully work at one of my local police departments! My motivation is knowing that I am lucky enough to continue my education and be a first-generation college student."

High school seniors and graduates from eligible North Carolina counties who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to the school and community, and a desire to serve the state of North Carolina in a field within the criminal justice profession can apply to the program. Upon graduation, students who receive the educational loan would have it forgiven if they enter and remain in a criminal justice profession within North Carolina for four years in an eligible county. If not, they would have five years to repay the loan.

The criminal justice profession offers a wide variety of career opportunities. Students who graduate can go into any job overseen by either the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission or the Sheriffs' Standards Commission, including becoming law-enforcement officers, state correctional officers, and state juvenile justice officers, other correctional officers maintained by local governments and juvenile justice agencies, sworn sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, detention officers, and telecommunicators.

More information on the Criminal Justice Fellows program is available at ncdoj.gov/law-enforcement-training/criminal-justice-fellows-program.

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For Our Patients: All are prescreened for symptoms of COVID-19.

- All patients are required to be in a mask while they are in our office.
- All visitors are requested to wait in their cars.
- Social distancing guidelines are maintained in our waiting rooms.
- Telehealth visits are available daily for patients who are unable to come in.
- Exam rooms, furniture, surfaces and equipment are cleaned according to CDC guidelines at least hourly and after contact with patients and staff.

For our providers and staff:

- We screen all staff members for symptoms of COVID-19 daily.
- All staff members and providers have access to, and are using PPE, (face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer) in accordance with CDC regulations.
- All exams, testing and procedures are carried out following the CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and PPE recommendations for providers and staff.

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