



## 5/21/2020 Beaufort County, NC

### COVID-19 SITREP

The following information is as of 5pm.

#### Case Statistics

	Population	Total Confirmed Cases	Current Active Cases	Deaths	Recovered
Worldwide	7.6 Billion	5,047,377 (+81,371)	3,123,146 (+37,495)	329,816 (+3,450)	1,924,231 (+43,876)
USA	330 Million	1,562,714 (+15,361)	1,268,402 (+10,441)	93,863 (+744)	294,312 (+4,920)
NC	10.4 Million	20,512 (+603)	8,845 (+603)	728 (+6)	11,637 (+2,522)
Beaufort Co.	47,000	35	6 (-2)	0	29 (+2)

\*Text in red or green indicates positive / negative changes since our last update.\*

- NC has total 20,512 confirmed cases, with 728 deaths. Our state currently has 8,845 active cases and 578 hospitalizations.
- Beaufort County has had a total of 35 cases, with 6 currently active. Twelve (12) of our positive cases were asymptomatic. (Meaning they experienced no COVID-19 symptoms.) Our newest cases have been attributed to direct contact with another positive case(s). Contact tracing of these known cases have concluded:
  - (16) cases are attributed to direct contact with another known positive case.
  - (2) cases were related to travel to a known outbreak area.
  - (17) cases are attributed to community spread.
 All active cases are self-isolating.



- Eastern NC counties with total confirmed cases include: Bertie (98), Beaufort (35), Bladen (81), Brunswick (62), Carteret (36), Camden (3), Chowan (15), Columbus (259), Craven (135), Currituck (11), Dare (22), Duplin (470), Edgecombe (174), Gates (14), Greene (51), Halifax (125), Hertford (60), Hyde (1), Jones (23), Lenoir (168), Martin (39), New Hanover (146), North Hampton (131), Onslow (80), Pamlico (9), Pasquotank (90), Pender (50), Perquimans (23), Pitt (228) Sampson (302), Tyrrell (4), Washington (26), Wayne (888) and Wilson (261). Mecklenburg (2,780), Wake (1,326), and Durham (1,131) counties have the most cases.

**Please Remember and Practice “The 3 Ws”**

**Wear Face Coverings**

**Wait 6' Apart**

**Wash Your Hands Often**

**Opening Beaufort County – A Message from Beaufort County’s Health Department**

Beaufort County’s Health Department has created a quick informational video that shares tips and safety measures to assist in the safe reopening of our local businesses. This video can be viewed using the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPse42FID40>

We will continue to provide additional guidance as our state progresses through its tiered reopening plan.

## How to Properly Wear a Face Mask



**IF YOU CHOOSE TO WEAR A MASK,  
ENSURE IT'S WORN CORRECTLY!**

**CORRECT**



The mask should extend from the bridge of the nose to below the chin.



Glasses are to be worn on top of the face mask, over the bridge of the nose.

**WRONG**



The mask should NOT sit above the chin, leaving the mouth exposed.



The mask should NOT sit under the bridge of the nose, leaving the nose exposed.

## Wearing Gloves Doesn't Mean More Protection From Germs





## **Testing Update – A Message from Beaufort County’s Health Department.**

May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020,

Washington, NC –

Due to efforts towards re-opening Beaufort County, starting May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we are updating testing procedures and capabilities. Individuals that qualify to be tested are as follows:

- Patients hospitalized **with** symptoms
- Healthcare facility workers, workers in congregate living settings, and first responders **with** symptoms
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including correctional facilities, homeless shelters and migrant farm worker camps, **with** symptoms
- Persons **with** symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, and/or sore throat.
- Persons **without** symptoms, but who are **high risk**, please call the health department or your provider.

Increased testing and expanded contact tracing are important steps to allow Beaufort County to move forward with re-opening. Increased testing allows us to identify those who have COVID-19. It also allows for early isolation of individuals to help prevent the spread of COVID. We do this by tracking down the contacts of the source patient and notifying them of their exposure and quarantining them.

If you feel ill or meet criteria to be tested, please contact one of the following locations to make an appointment:

- Beaufort County Health Department (252-946-1902)
- Vidant Multi-specialty Clinic - Belhaven (252-943-0600)
- AGAPE Community Health Center (252-940-0602)
- Vidant Family Medicine - Aurora (252-322-4021)
- Vidant Internal Medicine - Washington (252-946-2101)
- Other providers are conducting testing, but please call ahead to schedule an appointment.



In addition, remember the 3 W's to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. **WEAR** a face covering.
2. **WAIT** 6 feet apart and avoid close contact.
3. **WASH** your hands often or use hand sanitizer.

Continue to stay up to date regarding COVID-19 by visiting our website at <https://co.beaufort.nc.us/departments/human-services/public-health/2019-coronavirus-covid-19>.

For general questions regarding COVID-19, please contact the Beaufort County Health Department at 252.946.1902 or [bchealth@bchd.net](mailto:bchealth@bchd.net).

James Madson, RN, MPH

Health Director

Beaufort County Health Department

## **Re-Opening Timeline / Guidelines**

Below is a summary of our states plan for a phased reopening. Please note that these timelines / guidelines are subject to change based on case trends and / or additional executive orders.

**Phase II (Will begin at 5pm Friday, 5/22 and continue through June 26, 2020)**

Lift the Stay-at-Home order. Restaurants, ~~Bars, Fitness Centers~~, Personal Care Services must follow safety protocols including the potential need to reduce capacity (~~Bar & Fitness Centers will remain closed under Executive Order 141~~)

Increase number of people allowed at gatherings

Recommend face coverings in public spaces when 6 ft of distancing isn't possible.



## NC DHHS has released the following Requirements & Recommendations for Phase II

### Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure

Social distancing is a key tool to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing (“physical distancing”) means keeping space between you and other people outside of your home. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people; do not gather in groups; stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings. Phase 2 includes several requirements and recommendations to support social distancing in spaces where the public may gather.

Restaurants are **required** to:

- Ensure social distancing by arranging tables and seating to achieve at least 6-foot separation between parties for indoor and outdoor dining.
  - o Each group of people sitting at a counter should be separated by six (6) feet.
- Permit no more than 50% of maximum occupancy as stated in fire capacity. Restaurants may permit up to 12 people per 1,000 feet if there is not a fire code number available.
- Post the reduced “Emergency Maximum Capacity” in conspicuous place. Sign templates are available in English and Spanish on the NC DHHS COVID-19 response site.
- Post signage reminding people about social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from others). Know Your W's sign templates are available in English and Spanish on the NC DHHS COVID-19 response website.
- Mark six (6) feet of spacing in lines at high-traffic areas for customers, such as any cash register or any place where customers wait to be seated

It is **recommended** that restaurants:

- Allow no more than 6 people at a table, unless they are a family from the same household. You do not need to ask whether groups are a family.
- Don’t use shared tables among multiple parties unless the seats can be arranged to maintain social distancing between parties.



- Require patrons to wait outside, with markings to ensure 6 feet apart, with floor markings and instructions for social distancing.
- Provide hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance when available.
- Provide education to employees on how to properly wear, remove, and wash or dispose of face coverings.
- Install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions at cash registers, or other food pickup areas where maintaining physical separation of 6 feet is difficult.
- Advise all waitstaff to stay 6 feet away from customers to the extent possible.
- Advise all employees to stay 6 feet away from each other to the extent possible.
- Stagger seating times to the extent possible by using reservation systems or other methods; rotate or stagger shifts to limit the number of employees in the workplace at the same time
- Consider alternative options to gathering lots of people in a small area, such as having people wait in their cars and alerting them by phone when their table is ready.
- Staff meetings should be held virtually or provided by written notes instead of congregating.
- Reduce condiments and other items on the table for use between customers; provide condiments by request only; or provide disposable condiment packs.
- Continue to provide take-out, curbside pickup, and delivery options.
- Use rolled utensils and discontinue preset table settings.
- Continue to offer contactless payment options, curbside pickup, and delivery; if possible, use phone app technology to alert patrons when their table is ready to avoid use of pagers or buzzers.
- Use touchless payment options as much as possible. Ask customers and employees to exchange cash or card payments by placing on a receipt tray or on the counter rather than by hand. Wipe any pens, counters, or trays between use and between customers with a disinfecting wipe.
- Designate an ordering area at bars when wait staff are not available to visit each table. The ordering area should be at least 6 feet from other patrons seated at bar.





## Cloth Face Coverings

- It is strongly recommended that all employees and customers wear a cloth or disposable face covering when they may be near (less than 6 feet from) other people in the restaurant. A FAQ about face coverings is available in English and Spanish.
- It is encouraged that businesses provide face coverings for employees and customers. If provided, they must be single use or properly laundered using hot water and a high heat dryer between uses.
- Please share guidance to employees on use, wearing, and removal of cloth face coverings, such as CDC's guidance on wearing and removing cloth face masks, CDC's use of cloth face coverings, and CDC's cloth face coverings FAQ's.

## Cleaning and Hygiene

Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer reduces the spread of transmission.

Restaurants are **required** to:

- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails) with an EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increasing disinfection during peak times or high customer density times and all shared objects (e.g., payment terminals, tables, countertops/bars, receipt trays, condiment holders) between use. o Disinfect dining tables and booths, including condiment containers and reusable menus, between each use, allowing the disinfectant to sit for the necessary contact time recommended by the manufacturer.
- Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer for wait/food service staff upon reporting to work and frequently throughout shift. Hand washing is required to at least meet the requirements as specified in the North Carolina Food Code Manual, Sections 2-301.12, 2301.14, and 2-301.15.



It is recommended that restaurants:

- Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) and assure soap and hand drying materials are available at sinks.
- Use disposable menus, a menu display board, or mobile options, between customers/groups.
- Use single use/disposable linens when possible. If using disposable linens is not possible, sanitize cloth linens after each customer.
- Provide, whenever available, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance and other areas.
- Avoid offering any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets, salad bars, and drink stands.
- If self-serve is used:
  - o Provide an attendant at buffet areas to monitor social distancing and remove any contaminated food or utensils.
  - o Change, clean, and sanitize serving utensils (e.g., tongs, bulk food dispenser spoons) every 30 minutes.
  - o Have employees plate food for customers or provide increased monitoring of selfservice areas.
  - o Encourage handwashing and hand sanitizer use among customers before using selfservice area. Provide hand sanitizer at the beginning of each service line and post signage requesting use before handling utensils.



## Monitoring for Symptoms

Monitoring for Symptoms Conducted regular screening for symptoms can help reduce exposure to COVID-19. Encourage employees to self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

If they develop symptoms, they should notify their supervisor and stay home. More information on how to monitor for symptoms is available from the CDC.

Restaurants are **required** to:

- Conduct daily symptom screening (use this standard interview questionnaire) (English|Spanish) of employees at entrance with immediately sending symptomatic workers home to isolate.
- Post signage at the main entrance requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter, such as Know Your Ws/Stop if You Have Symptoms flyers (English - Color, Black & White; Spanish - Color, Black & White).
- Employees who have symptoms when they arrive at work or become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.

It is **recommended** that restaurants:

- Have a plan in place for immediately removing employees from work if symptoms develop.
- Establish and enforce sick leave policies to prevent the spread of disease, including:
  - o Enforcing employees staying home if sick.
  - o Encouraging liberal use of sick leave policy.
  - o Expanding paid leave policies to allow employees to stay home when sick.
- Per CDC guidelines, if an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, the employee should be excluded from work until:
  - o No fever for at least 72 hours since recovery (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND



- o Other symptoms have improved (e.g., coughing, shortness of breath) AND
  - o At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms
- Per CDC guidelines, if an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of work until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test results, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
  - Require symptomatic employees to wear masks until leaving the facility. Cleaning and disinfecting procedure should be implemented by designated personnel following CDC guidelines once sick employee leaves.
  - Provide employees with information on help lines to access information or other support in reference to COVID-19, e.g. 211 and Hope4NC Helpline (1-855-587-3463)

### Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Information on who is at higher risk for severe disease is available from the CDC and NC DHHS.

It is **recommended** that restaurants:

- Designate a specific time for persons at higher risk to access the restaurant without the general population (such as early morning, or late afternoon).
- Enable employees to self-identify as high risk for severe disease and reassign work to minimize face-to-face contact and to allow them to maintain a distance of six feet from others, or to telework if possible.

### Combatting Misinformation

Help make sure that the information your employees is getting is coming directly from reliable resources. Use resources from a trusted source like the CDC or NCDHHS to promote behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is **recommended** that restaurants:



- Provide workers with education about COVID-19 strategies, using methods like videos, webinars, or FAQs. Some reliable sources include NC DHHS COVID-19, Know Your W's: Wear, Wait, Wash, NC DHHS COVID-19 Latest Updates, NC DHHS COVID-19 Materials & Resources
- Promote informational helplines like 211 and Hope4NC and other Wellness Resources.  Put up signs and posters, such as those found Know Your W's: Wear, Wait, Wash and those found Social Media Toolkit for COVID-19.
- Message through media and social media.

#### Water and Ventilation Systems

Reduced use of water and ventilations systems can pose their own health hazards. There is increased risk for Legionella and other from stagnant or standing water.

Before reopening, it is recommended that:

- Follow the CDC's Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation to minimize the risk of diseases associated with water.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk to people using the facility.

**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions for Phase II (Executive Order 141) can be found by viewing the attached document to today's email.**

**Additional information about Phase II can be found using the following link.**

<https://co.beaufort.nc.us/departments/human-services/public-health/2019-coronavirus-covid-19/phase-two-resources>

**Additional Business / Employer Guidance can also be found by using the following link.**

<https://co.beaufort.nc.us/departments/human-services/public-health/2019-coronavirus-covid-19/beaufort-county-resources/business-employer-guidance>



### **Phase III (Could begin June 26, 2020 and July 12, 2020.)**

Increased capacity at Restaurants, Bars, Other Businesses & Entertainment Venues.

Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings.

### **Mitigation Efforts**

- Beaufort County's EOC is fully activated to provide support for essential county and municipal functions.
- The City of Washington closed the following city office buildings to the public until further notice:
  - City Hall
  - Bobby Andrews Recreation Center
  - George H. and Laura E. Brown Library
  - Grace Martin Harwell Senior Center
  - Moore Aquatic and Fitness Center
  - Susiegray McConnell Sports Complex
- Beaufort County Schools will remain closed through the end of the current school year. They will continue to serve meals Mon-Friday at the following locations.  
The locations for these student meals are :
  - Cornerstone Family Worship Center -1918 West 5th Street, Washington Contact: Tiana Payne Church: 252-946-6109
  - Temple of Joy -96 Hill Road Chocowinity NC Contact: Apostle Georgette Redmond: Church: 252-975-6580 Cell: 917-7223
  - Ware Creek Baptist Church - 2302 Maules Point Road, Blunts Creek Contact: Bishop Charles Smith: Cell: 252-622-1924 Bishop Charles Tyson, Pastor
  - Fresh Anointing Church of God - 820 Hwy 33 East, Aurora NC - Cell 252-364-7493
  
  - River Road Estates
  - Northeast Elementary School
  - Eastern Elementary School
  - John Cotton Tayloe Elementary School



- Chocowinity Primary School
- SW Snowden Elementary School
- Belhaven Civic Center parking lot
- Salvation Army parking lot in Washington
- Washington Police Substation at 9th street

Any child can have a breakfast and lunch.

This lunch will be served in a “drive-thru” setting so no one has to leave their car or enter the school building. Parents and family members may pick up these meals for their students whether or not the students are with them. We will just need the names of the students receiving the meals. Any student of any school can pick up a meal at any site.

- Families who need help finding meals for their children ages 18 and younger can text “FOODNC” to “877-877”.
- The following Executive Orders have been issued for North Carolina.
  - EO 141: Lifts the statewide Stay at Home Order and moves the state to a Safer At Home recommendation. Allows restaurants to resume dine-in services, and Barbers, Salons and Personal Care businesses to open.
  - EO 139: Provides additional regulatory flexibility to help ensure capacity in the state’s health care system and improve its ability to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - EO 138: Effective 5 p.m. May 8, 2020, eases some restrictions on travel, business operations and mass gatherings.
  - EO 135: Extends until May 8, North Carolina’s Stay At Home (Executive Order 121) as well as other orders regarding the closures of restaurants for dine-in service, bars and other close-contact businesses
  - EO 134: Allows furloughed employees to be eligible for unemployment benefits.
  - EO 133: Extends certain provisions in previous executive orders that are related to transportation.
  - EO 131: Addresses three issues: requires retail stores that are still operating to implement new social distancing policies to make shopping safer for customers



and employees; makes earlier COVID-19 guidelines mandatory for nursing facilities, and recommends other long-term care facilities to do the same; speeds up the process to get benefits to people out of work.

- EO 130: Provides more access to health care beds, expands the pool of health care workers and orders essential childcare services for workers responding to the crisis.
- EO 124: Prohibits utilities - including electric, gas, water and wastewater services from disconnecting people who are unable to pay during this pandemic and prohibits them from collecting fees, penalties or interest for late payment. The order applies for the next 60 days and gives residential customers at least six months to pay outstanding bills.
- EO 121: A statewide “Stay at Home” order has been issued. This order will restrict travel to essential activities only. (ie. Travel for items such as, groceries, food, medications, household supplies, essential workers, etc.) This order will also limit gatherings to less than 10 people.
- EO 120: Extended school closures through May 15<sup>th</sup>. This order also imposes restrictions on the following businesses; Bingo Parlors, Bowling Alleys, Indoor Exercise Facilities, Health Clubs, Indoor / Outdoor Pools, Live Performance Venues, Movie Theaters, Skating Rinks, Spas, Gaming and businesses which allow gaming activities.
- EO 119: Lifting restrictions on local Health Departments, childcare facilities, and commerce transport. This order also restricting various functions of DMV to include:
  - Driver’s License Office will operate by appointment only.
  - Closing of all Drivers License Office that are on insufficient size to maintain social distancing.
  - Extending office hours at locations that are of sufficient size.
  - Postpone all DMV related hearings for 60 days.
- EO 118: Restricting dine-in services at all restaurants / bars. These businesses will continue to be allowed to provide carry-out and delivery services.

## **Testing**





- There have been 710 tests completed in Beaufort County to date, with 657 negatives, 32 positives and 21 pending. (These are cumulative numbers and includes test performed at the Health Department and reporting private medical facilities throughout our county.)  
**\*Three of our positive cases were tested in other counties but are Beaufort Co. residents.\***

## **Free Wi-Fi Locations**

Please see the message below from Wilkes Communications / Riverstreet Networks.

Wilkes Communications/ Riverstreet Networks Installs Free Wi-Fi Hotspots to the Community

Wilkesboro, NC, March 26, 2020 - Wilkes Communications/Riverstreet Networks is committed to the well-being of our customers, our employees, and our community. As we continue to actively monitor developments related to coronavirus (COVID-19) we want to assure you that we are taking all necessary health and safety precautions in accordance with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and local and state health officials for our customers, employees and the community.

We are dedicated to serving our valued customers and ensuring they maintain reliable access to the online resources and information they want and need. To ease the strain in this challenging time, we have opened several Wi-Fi hotspots in the communities we serve. We currently have over 100 free Wi-Fi hotspots at 70 locations in North Carolina and Virginia. This will enable students and employees who may not have internet access to be able to complete coursework and work remotely. This free service can be accessed from the safety of your vehicle. Please visit [wilkes.net](http://wilkes.net) or [myriverstreet.net](http://myriverstreet.net) for a listing of our hotspot locations.

Wilkes Communications/RiverStreet Networks would like to thank the businesses for allowing us to install this equipment on their premises. This partnership illustrates how much they care about their community and its well-being. Our network and communications services are crucial to the people we serve in not only keeping them informed but allowing the social distancing required to slow down the spread of the virus through the population.

Our communities, our country, and our world are resilient places. Together, we'll see our way through this situation and be stronger because of it. Thank you for helping us all stay healthy. Free Wi-Fi access can be found at the following locations within Beaufort County:



- Pantego Community Fire Department | 25673 US 264 Hwy E, Pantego NC 27860
- Pinetown Volunteer Fire Department | 7262 N Boyd Rd, Pinetown NC 27865
- Pungo Christian Academy | 983 West Main Street, Belhaven NC 27810
- Northeast Elementary School | 21000 US-264 Pinetown, NC 27865
- Bath Elementary School (Behind Cafeteria) | 110 King St, Bath, NC 27808
- St. Clairs Church | 9814 NC 99, Bath, NC 27808
- Allgood Church of God | 1891 Mill Hole Rd, Washington, NC 27889
- Union Grove Church of Christ | 6889 NC-99, Pantego, NC 27860
- Life Gate Free Will Baptist Church | 52 Old Pamlico Beach Rd, Belhaven, NC 27810
- Pungo Fire Department | 40 Pike Rd, Pantego NC 27860
- Everett's Crossroads Church of Christ | 48 South White Post Rd, Pinetown, NC
- Terra Ceia Christian School | 4428 Christian School Rd, Pantego

Please refer to the following link for a complete list of Wi-Fi locations in NC and VA:  
[See A List of FREE Community Wi-Fi LOCATIONS - NC and VA by Clicking Here](#)

## **Resources**

We have created a resource page that can accessed at  
<https://co.beaufort.nc.us/departments/human-services/public-health/2019-coronavirus-covid-19>.

This resource page contains guidance for businesses, long term care facilities, families, and more.

We are here to offer support and answer any questions or concerns. We are encouraging all community partners to share accurate information and promote it within your businesses, communities, and elsewhere. Beaufort County's website and Facebook page are great ways to stay up to date on accurate information.

Thank you,



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