



OFFICE OF REP. DAVID PRICE

COVID-19

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

UPDATED: 3/30/2020

RALEIGH OFFICE
436 N. Harrington St Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27603
Phone: 919.859.5999

CHAPEL HILL OFFICE
1777 Fordham Blvd, Suite 204
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: 919.967.7924

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE
2108 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202.225.17843

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

COVID-19

Hello:

COVID-19 is impacting the rhythm of daily life – schools are closing, small businesses are under stress, and health care centers are preparing to care for the individuals affected by the virus among other things.

As you know, the federal government is responding to the widespread impact of COVID-19 by issuing new guidance and enacting major assistance packages for workers, businesses, and communities. It is my priority that every North Carolinian, particularly those most vulnerable, has access to the assistance he or she needs without delay.

Below, you will find an updated list of resources at the federal, state, and county level available to assist with a range of issues such as access to health care, healthy food, unemployment support, loans for small businesses, and more. I will continue to update this information as it arrives.

Sincerely,



SERVING YOU

Like many businesses, schools, and organizations — my office has instituted a teleworking policy to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19. We are fully operational, and are here to assist you with federal agencies, answer questions and concerns, and are performing all essential legislative functions.

[Click here](#) to contact my office.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Public Health Information.....	1
General Resources.....	5
Travel Resources.....	10
Small Business Resources.....	11
Worker Resources.....	13
Student Resources.....	15
Congressional Action.....	16
Stay Updated.....	17



PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

All information below is pulled from the following updated and credible coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) resources:

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
[COVID-19 Response in North Carolina](#)

North Carolinians can [call 211](#), a free, confidential hotline for information on COVID-19.

UPDATED COVID-19 CASE STATISTICS:

[Nationwide](#)
[North Carolina Specific](#)

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases.

These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure (based on the known information about the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses).

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Anosmia, the loss of sense of smell, and ageusia, an accompanying diminished sense of taste, [have emerged as peculiar telltale signs of Covid-19](#)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS:

Call your doctor: If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your health care provider for medical advice, including whether you should be tested for COVID-19. If you do not have a primary care doctor, call 211 or the local health department:

[Durham County Department of Public Health](#) (8:30am-5:00pm M-F) 919-635-8150

[Orange County Public Health Department](#) (8:30am-5:00pm M-F) 919-245-6111 and/or receive text updates by texting ONCHEALTH to 888-777; email: covid19@orangecountync.gov.

[Wake County Public Health Department](#) (8:00am-5:00pm M-F) 919-856-7044; email: covid19.questions@wakegov.com.



PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

WHEN TO SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE:

If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention (call 911) immediately. Emergency warning signs include:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

Please call ahead if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms so health care providers can properly prepare for your arrival.

HIGH-RISK GROUPS:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Other high-risk conditions could include:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart conditions
 - People who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment
 - People of any age with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] >40) or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease might also be at risk
 - People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk with severe viral illness, however, to date data on COVID-19 has not shown increased risk

Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.

COPING DURING COVID-19 — MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES:

COVID-19, and the accompanying physical and financial worries, can cause considerable amounts of stress. [Click here](#) for resources on how to cope.

[The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#): provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress. 1-800-273-8255

[SAMHSA Disaster Distress Hotline](#): Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.



PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

If you do not have health insurance, you can call your nearest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). FQHCs are community-based health care providers that receive federal funds to provide needed health services in communities.

[Find a community health center near you by searching here.](#)

ENROLLING IN HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH ACA

If you have lost your health insurance due to a change in job, you may qualify to enroll in health care coverage during a special open enrollment period.

Learn more here: [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).

MEDICAID

North Carolinians can apply for Medicaid on the [NCDHHS Medicaid Website](#) or by phone at 888-245-0179 Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM.

Medicaid recipients in North Carolina will also have expanded access to remote and virtual health services.

MEDICARE

Medicare recipients may be eligible for telehealth services such as virtual visits from the comfort of their own home. For more information, contact your medical provider or visit your [Medicare account](#).

NORTH CAROLINA ePASS PORTAL

To determine if you are eligible for public assistance like SNAP, Medicaid, or CHIP, create an account on the [NCDHHS ePASS](#) website.

PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

STATE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

A 30-day, statewide stay-at-home order begins Monday, March 30 at 5PM. This prohibits all public activity except essential functions. For more information see the [Governor's FAQ](#).

HOW TO CARE FOR SOMEONE AT HOME

[This CDC guide](#) has information on how to best assist if you are caring for someone at home, how to monitor for emergency signs, prevent the spread of germs, treat symptoms, and carefully consider when to end home isolation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

If you or a loved one are in immediate danger, contact 911.

The [National Domestic Violence hotline](#) offers 24/7 call and online chat services. All chats and calls are completely confidential. Call 1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522. Domestic violence service providers are considered essential services and should continue to operate under Stay-at-Home orders. Contact Sherry Honeycutt Everett at severett@nccadv.org or Kathleen Lockwood at klockwood@nccadv.org with questions.

[North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#): 1-800-799-7233 (24/7)

[Durham County Resources](#), [Orange County Resources](#), [Wake County Resources](#)

AVOIDING COVID-19 SCAMS

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding COVID-19. [Click here](#) to protect and educate yourself about scams. You can call Orange County's COVID-19 scam hotline at 714-834-3482. Our senior community is particularly at risk for scam calls and emails.



RESOURCES

GENERAL RESOURCES

FOOD ASSISTANCE

You can search the [Food Bank NC database](#) to find resources near you. No Kid Hungry North Carolina also compiled a [statewide list of meals for kids](#) in all counties. More information is available on their [website](#). Text FOODNC (for Spanish services text COMIDA) to 877-877 to find the pick-up and drive-thru locations closest to you.

To search for resources and learn more about available services, visit [Passage Home's Community Resource Guide](#) or the [NC Care 360 website](#).

SNAP FOOD ASSISTANCE

Individuals and households that need food assistance may be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with more information at the [NCDHHS SNAP website](#). For individuals that currently utilize SNAP and those who are new to apply, The [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) expanded eligibility to unemployed individuals and waived time limits.

Durham:

Durham County SNAP resources are available on the [Durham County Services](#) website and by phone at 919-560-0300 between 7:30AM-5PM.

Orange:

Orange County SNAP resources are available on the [Orange County Services](#) website or contact Food and Nutrition Services Program Supervisor: Terri Totherow via email at totherow@orangecountync.gov or by phone at 919-245-2844.

Wake:

Wake County SNAP resources are available on the [Wake County Services](#) website or contact Food and Nutrition Services Review Program Manager: Luv Sinclair via email at Luv.Artis-Sinclair@wakegov.com or by phone at 919-848-5391.

RESOURCES

GENERAL RESOURCES

WIC FOOD ASSISTANCE

Durham:

Durham County WIC resources are available through the [Durham County Health Department](#) at 919-956-4042.

Orange:

Orange County [WIC resources](#) are available through the Piedmont Health Services, Inc (located within the Orange County Health Department) at 919-245-2422.

Wake:

Wake County WIC resources are available on the [Wake County Services](#) website and at 919-250-4720.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD ASSISTANCE

Durham:

[Durham County Public Schools](#) will provide meals for students beginning March 23rd at a number of locations. Food assistance is also available through the [Urban Ministries of Durham](#) online and by phone at 919-682-0538.

Orange:

[Orange County Public Schools](#) will provide meals for students at a number of locations Monday – Friday beginning March 16th.

Wake:

[Wake County Public Schools](#) will provide meals for students Monday – Friday beginning March 17th. There are also many [food distribution resources](#) throughout the county.

State and local organizations interested in supplementing their food assistance programs may apply for the [Emergency Food Assistance Program](#) (TEFAP) at no cost. Interested parties may contact the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Director, Gary Gay, by phone at 919-575-4490 or email at Gary.Gay@ncagr.gov.



RESOURCES

GENERAL RESOURCES

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE

Families may receive cash assistance with [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families](#) (TANF) also called Work First.

Durham:

Durham County TANF resources are available on the [Durham County Services website](#)

Orange:

Orange County TANF resources are available on the [Orange County Services website](#).

Wake:

Wake County TANF resources are available on the [Wake County Services website](#).

TAX DEADLINES

Federal: [Tax day has been postponed to July 15th.](#)

State: [Tax day has been postponed to July 15th.](#)

For more information visit the [North Carolina Department of Revenue website](#).

LATE PAYMENT ON PROPERTY TAXES

Recently, Wake and Durham county authorities announced collections notices will be suspended until further notice. Individuals will still owe overdue tax bills which will accrue interest as long as they remain unpaid. Orange County is not suspending collections at this time. For more information visit:

[Durham County Tax Administration website](#); 919-560-0300 M-F 8:30AM-5PM; email: tax_assessor@dconc.gov.

[Orange County Tax Administration website](#); 919-245-2100; email: tax@orangecountync.gov.

[Wake County Tax Administration website](#); 919-856-5400 M-F 8AM-5PM; email: taxhelp@wakegov.com.

RESOURCES

GENERAL RESOURCES

FORCLOSURES AND EVICTIONS

There is no statewide policy suspending foreclosures, evictions, hearings, or orders, but some counties are updating their foreclosure and eviction guidelines.

Durham:

Durham County is suspending all evictions until further notice.

Orange:

Orange County will continue to carry out eviction notices.

Wake:

Wake County has suspended carrying out eviction notices until April 17.

North Carolinians can find more information regarding [foreclosures](#) and [evictions](#) on the North Carolina Judicial Branch Website.

If you are in need of legal advice or representation, Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide nonprofit organization that may be able to assist some [homeowners in their foreclosure](#) cases and [renters facing eviction](#). You can apply for Legal Aid representation by calling 1-866-219-5262 or [applying online](#).

CARES ACT FORECLOSURE & EVICTION SUSPENSIONS

The recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act also temporarily suspends foreclosures and evictions for certain federally-backed properties:

Suspended foreclosures: properties with federally-backed mortgages, including those covered by HUD, USDA, FHA, VA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, for 60 days beginning on March 18, 2020. Under the bill, a borrower with a federally-backed mortgage experiencing a financial hardship due to coronavirus may also request a forbearance for up to 180 days, which may be extended for another 180 days at the request of the borrower.

Suspended evictions: The bill also suspends eviction filings for renters in homes covered by a federally-backed mortgage for 120 days. There will also be a temporary suspension of evictions for most residents of federally subsidized apartments, including those supported by HUD, USDA or Treasury (Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments).



RESOURCES

GENERAL RESOURCES

VOTING

The North Carolina State Board of Elections provides updates on potential changes to voting operations and elections due to COVID-19 on their [website](#).

TRIBAL RESOURCES

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has compiled a [list of federal resources](#) from the Indian Health Service, FEMA, and the Bureau of Indian Education to aid Tribes in their response to the COVID-19 outbreak.



RESOURCES

TRAVEL RESOURCES

DOMESTIC TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:

For an updated guide on domestic travel recommendations, go to the [CDC's website here](#).

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:

The State Department is advising Americans to avoid all international travel at this time. In countries where commercial departure options remain available, Americans seeking to return home should make immediate arrangements to do so, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period. For more information on the State Department's worldwide "Level 4" travel advisory, [please click here](#).

- A number of countries have suspended all international air travel, and more may follow suit. We are in regular contact with the State Department and are working around the clock to ensure Americans in those countries can return home safely.
- The State Department has created a 24-hour public hotline for Americans abroad who are impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. For callers in the U.S. and Canada, the number is 888-407-4747. For those dialing from overseas, the number is 202-501-4444. Travelers are also strongly encouraged to enroll in the [State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive alerts and make it easier to locate them in an emergency.

[CDC Materials for Incoming Travelers from High-Risk Countries](#)

[State Department Capabilities in a Crisis](#)

[Country-Specific Information/Health Alerts](#)

[Embassy-Specific COVID-19 Information](#)

[Reducing Stigma](#)

[CDC's Travel Website](#)



RESOURCES

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

American small businesses are facing an unprecedented economic disruption due to the novel COVID-19 outbreak. Cities and states have implemented mandatory closures of public spaces to ensure social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus, so those difficulties have only increased. This section will detail the small business provisions in the latest CARES Act relief package as well as other U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs for during times of disaster.

All information, unless cited, are pulled from the following updated COVID-19 resources:

[Small Business Administration](#)
[Congressional Committee on Small Business](#)

SBA PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

The latest relief package includes nearly \$350 billion for the creation of a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that will provide small businesses (500 employees or fewer) and other entities (including private non-profits) with zero-fee loans of up to \$10 million. Up to 8 weeks of average payroll and other costs will be forgiven if the business retains its employees and their salary levels. Principal and interest is deferred for up to a year and all borrower fees are waived. This temporary emergency assistance through the SBA and the Department of Treasury can be used in coordination with other COVID-financing assistance established in the bill or any other existing SBA loan program. Interested businesses and nonprofits should visit [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov) for more information on the application process

SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN (EIDL)

Small businesses in all U.S. states and territories negatively impacted by COVID-19 may now apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) grant from the Small Business Administration (SBA). EIDLs are loans of up to \$2 million that carry interest rates up to 3.75 percent for companies and up to 2.75 percent for nonprofits, as well as principal and interest deferment for up to 4 years. The loans may be used to pay for expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred, including payroll and other operating expenses. Businesses that are interested in this program should [apply directly with the SBA by clicking HERE](#).



RESOURCES

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

SBA EMERGENCY ECONOMIC INJURY GRANTS

The latest relief package includes \$10 billion in funding for a provision to provide an advance of \$10,000 to small businesses and nonprofits that apply for an SBA EIDL within three days of applying for the loan. The advance may be used to support payroll, paid sick leave due to COVID-19, or paying rent, among other operating expenses. Interested businesses and nonprofits should visit [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov) for more information on the application process.

STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM (STEP)

The SBA may also be able to assist with export challenges by helping identify alternative markets through the agency's [State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\)](#). Instructions on applying for a STEP grant can be [found HERE](#).

BUSINESS COUNSELING SERVICES

The recent relief package provides \$275 million in grants to the nation's network of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and Women's Business Centers (WBCs), as well as the Minority Business Development Agency's Business Centers (MBDCs), to provide mentorship, guidance and expertise to small businesses. The funding will allow SBDCs, WBCs, and MBDCs to hire staff and provide programming to help small businesses and minority-owned businesses respond to COVID-19. To identify local SBDCs, WBCs, and MBDCs, [click HERE](#).

RESOURCES

WORKER RESOURCES

PAID SICK LEAVE:

I voted to pass the bipartisan Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which guarantees two weeks of paid sick leave and up to three months of paid family and medical leave for many American workers. An FAQ from the Department of Labor on these provisions can be found [here](#).

ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is a joint state-federal partnership, with the state administering the program and setting benefit levels and length within certain federal guidelines. The CARES Act makes several major changes to the UI system, including:

- Makes an additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment compensation for individuals who have exhausted their state unemployment benefits available immediately through December 31, 2020.
- Adds an additional \$600 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to every weekly unemployment benefit, effective until July 31, 2020. This \$600 benefit will be taxable (like regular unemployment benefits), but it will be disregarded in determining Medicaid or CHIP eligibility.
- Creates a new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program that will cover self-employed workers (including gig workers and independent contractors), part-time workers, and those with limited work histories. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance will be state-administered but fully federally funded. The \$600 weekly enhancement mentioned above will also apply to this program.

[A more detailed explanation of the changes in the UI program can be found here.](#)

FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT:

If you are unable to work, have been laid-off, or had your hours reduced due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. [Apply for Unemployment Insurance HERE.](#)

On March 29, Governor Roy Cooper announced that workers applying for benefits **must complete their weekly certifications in order to receive unemployment insurance payments.**

RESOURCES

WORKER RESOURCES

The weekly certification is a series of 'yes or no' questions that helps determine a person's eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits each week. **If a person does not complete a weekly certification, they will not receive a payment for that week.**

The weekly certification must be completed through the individual's online account at des.nc.gov.

Individuals with questions can access [more information here](#).

Employers with questions can access [more information here](#).

RECOVERY REBATES ("DIRECT CHECKS")

This new program would provide \$1,200 for singles and heads of households (\$2,400 for married couples filing joint returns). The provision also provides \$500 per qualifying child dependent under age 17 (using the rules under the Child Tax Credit). A family of four would receive \$3,400.

How it Works: Rebates begin to phase out above adjusted gross incomes of \$75,000 (single)/ \$122,500 (head of household)/ \$150,000 (joint). There is no income floor or phase-in – all recipients will receive the same amounts, provided they are under the phaseout threshold. Tax filers must provide Social Security Numbers (SSN) for each family member claiming a rebate (adoption taxpayer identification numbers accepted for adopted children). An exception on SSN is made for spouses of active military members.

The rebates are fully available to residents of U.S. Territories, including Puerto Rico. The rebates will be paid out as advance refunds (in the form of checks or direct deposit) on the basis of taxpayers' filed tax year 2019 returns (or tax year 2018, if a 2019 return has not yet been filed). Non-filers generally need to file a tax return in order to claim a rebate, although IRS may coordinate with other federal agencies in some instances to get checks out.

[Additional information on the rebates can be found here.](#)

SOCIAL SECURITY

As of Tuesday, March 17, the SSA suspended all in-person services until further notice. If you already have a scheduled appointment, the SSA will attempt to contact you by phone and/or reschedule for a telephone appointment. Their services are available [online](#) or by [phone](#).



RESOURCES

STUDENT RESOURCES

SCHOOL CLOSURES

On March 23, Governor Roy Cooper announced that all North Carolina public schools will remain closed until at least May 15th with the possibility to extend. More information is available at the [Department of Public Instruction website](#) or by phone at 919-807-3300 M-F between 7:30AM and 5PM.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD ASSISTANCE

[Durham County Public Schools](#) will provide meals for students beginning March 23rd at a number of locations. Food assistance is also available through the [Urban Ministries of Durham](#) online and by phone at 919-682-0538.

[Orange County Public Schools](#) will provide meals for students at a number of locations Monday – Friday beginning March 16th.

[Wake County Public Schools](#) will provide meals for students Monday – Friday beginning March 17th. There are also many [food distribution resources](#) throughout the county.

INTERNET AND BROADBAND CONNECTION

For families, workers, and students having to make a sudden transition to working and learning from home, the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) has created [an interactive map](#) and list of broadband providers who will provide service for free or at a discounted rate. For questions call the NCDIT at 919-754-6733 or email broadband@nc.gov.

More than [550 companies](#) have pledged they will not to take internet and connectivity access away from customers who are unable to pay as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

STUDENT LOANS

As of March 13, borrowers of Federal Direct Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, or Federal Family Education Program (FFEL) loans will pay 0% interest for up to 60 days and may make a request to their loan servicer to temporarily suspend loan payments for up to 60 days. If you do not know who your servicer is or how to contact them, visit StudentAid.gov/login or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY for the deaf or hearing-impaired 1-800-730-8913) for assistance. More information is available at the [Student Aid website](#). The income tax on employer-driven student loan repayment assistance has also been eliminated.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

PHASE ONE

The [first bipartisan congressional package to address COVID-19 consisted of an \\$8.3 billion](#) emergency supplemental appropriations bill. It appropriated funds to develop and research a vaccine, fund public health programs, procure pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, facilitate the development of new therapies and treatments, and helped small businesses, to cushion the economic blow of this public health emergency.

PHASE TWO

The second bipartisan congressional COVID-19 bill, the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#), secured free COVID-19 testing and provided family and worker protections. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201):

- Established free testing for COVID-19 for all Americans.
- Secured emergency paid leave with two weeks of paid sick leave and up to three months of paid family and medical leave.
- Secured enhanced Unemployment Insurance, a step that will extend protections to furloughed workers.
- Strengthened nutrition security initiatives, including SNAP, student meals, seniors' nutrition, and food banks.
- Increased federal funds for Medicaid to support our local, state, tribal, and territorial governments and health systems, so that they have the resources necessary to combat this crisis.

PHASE THREE

The [third bipartisan congressional COVID-19 funding bill \(CARES Act\)](#) is a nearly \$2 trillion relief package to help American families, businesses, and workers get back on their feet. It includes:

- \$350 billion for Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses
- \$100 billion for hospitals and health care providers
- Direct one-time payments of \$1,200 to most American adults
- An expansion of unemployment insurance + other social safety net programs

STAY UPDATED

Stay up to date by signing up
for my newsletter [here](#)

&

FOLLOW ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@RepDavidEPrice



@RepDavidEPrice



@RepDavidEPrice



U.S. Congressman

DAVID PRICE

Representing North Carolina's 4th District