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## March 30, 2020 eNewsletter Volume 119



## Gov. Cooper issued a Stay at Home Order on Friday Effective today.

On Friday, Governor Cooper issued a statewide Stay At Home Order effective today. This means that people should stay at their residence and limit social interactions and travel for essential activities or essential

business purposes. You can read the order here:

https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO121-Stay-at-Home-Order-3.pdf

You can read answers to FAQ here:

https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/200327 FAQ-SAH-Order FINAL.pdf

It is also important to note that Wake County has issued its own Stay at Home order with stricter requirements and fewer exceptions. If you live in Wake County, you may want to look at its order as well.

http://www.wakegov.com/news/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=1200

#StayHomeSaveLives and help #FlattenTheCurve

## **Education Update.**

As everyone already knows, schools are closed pursuant to Governor Cooper's Executive Order.

#### Governor Cooper-Executive Order #120

"For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above: Executive Order No. 117 § 2 is amended as follows: I hereby direct that all public schools close for students effective Monday, March 16, 2020, as set forth in Executive Order No. 117, through Friday, May 15, 2020, unless extended beyond that date."

On Friday, it was announced that North Carolina public high schools will drop the use of traditional letter grades on spring courses for high school seniors due to schools being closed during the coronavirus pandemic.

The State Board of Education approved the recommendation Friday from state Department of Public Instruction staff to pass high school seniors if they were passing their classes as of March 13 — the final day before schools were closed. Seniors will get a note on their transcript that they received a passing grade for those classes as opposed to a traditional A-F letter grade.

#### **GRADES K-11**

In grades K-11, schools are only to give traditional grades to students if they can meet these remote learning requirements:

- Is accessible by all students for which the learning is intended and is responsive to diverse learning groups
- Maintains consistent communication between instructional staff and students
- Addresses the curricular and instructional needs associated with appropriate standards

- Includes evidence of student learning
- Considers the whole child as well as the home learning environment.

The state is surveying school districts and charter schools on how they're providing remote learning to students. DPI says it will provide further guidance to schools on issuing final grades in grades K-11 if schools are closed longer than May 15.

**NEW! Starting Today**, UNC-TV will begin education programming that anyone with a TV or computer can access. You can find out more about the program here:

https://www.unctv.org/unctv-at-home-learning/



#### **Wake County Public Schools Food Sites for Students:**

Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Athens Drive Magnet High, 1420 Athens Drive, Raleigh
- Baileywick Elementary, 9425 Baileywick Rd, Raleigh
- Briarcliff Elementary School, 1220 Pond St., Cary
- Bugg Magnet Elementary, 825 Cooper Rd, Raleigh
- Casa De Luna Apartments, 3819 Bonneville Court, Raleigh
- Creech Road Elementary School, 450 Creech Road, Garner
- Dillard Drive Elementary, 5018 Dillard Dr, Raleigh
- Forestville Elementary, 100 Lawson Ridge Rd, Knightdale
- Fox Hall Village, 5909 Fox Hall Village Road, Raleigh
- Fox Road Elementary, 7101 Fox Rd, Raleigh
- Fuller Magnet Elementary, 806 Calloway Dr, Raleigh
- Hodge Road Magnet Elementary, 2128 Mingo Bluff Blvd, Knightdale
- Hunter Magnet Elementary, 1018 E Davie St, Raleigh
- Juniper Level Baptist Church, 9104 Sauls Road, Raleigh
- Knightdale Elementary, 109 Ridge Street, Knightdale
- Millbank Court Apartments, 1500 N. Raleigh Blvd., Raleigh
- Millbrook Magnet Elementary School, 1520 E. Millbrook Dr., Raleigh

- PAVE SE Raleigh Charter School, 3420 Idlewood Village Dr., Raleigh
- Pine Acres Community Center, 402 McLean St., Fuquay-Varina
- Poe Magnet Elementary School, 400 Peyton St., Raleigh
- Reedy Creek Elementary, 940 Reedy Creek Rd, Cary
- Rogers Lane Elementary School, 201 N. Rogers Lane, Raleigh
- Rolesville High, 1099 East Young St, Rolesville
- Rolesville Middle, 4700 Burlington Mills Rd., Rolesville
- The Oaks Apartments, 590 Lipscombe Ct, Raleigh
- Wake County Human Services Northern Regional Center, 350 Holding Ave., Wake Forest
- Washington Terrace Apartments, 1951 Booker Dr., Raleigh
- Wendell Middle School, 3409 NC Hwy. 97, Wendell
- Zebulon Magnet Elementary School, 700 Proctor St., Zebulon
- Brentwood Magnet Elementary School, 3426 Ingram Drive, Raleigh,
- Cary Elementary School, 400 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary
- Sanford Creek Elementary, 701 Granite Falls Blvd, Rolesville
- Smith Magnet Elementary School, 1101 Maxwell Drive, Raleigh

#### North Carolina Receives Federal Disaster Declaration for COVID-19

The White House granted Governor Roy Cooper's request late last Wednesday for a federal disaster declaration for the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic in North Carolina.

The declaration provides Public Assistance to all 100 North Carolina counties, allowing local governments, state agencies and eligible non-profits to be reimbursed for costs involved in responding to the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

North Carolina is still waiting for additional assistance including disaster unemployment assistance, crisis counseling, disaster case management and other items. They remain under review and could be granted as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

## **Update on COVID-19 Case Count**

According to the Department of Health and Human Service's official count as for Sunday morning, North Carolina has 1,040 cases. There are 69 counties with cases.

There are 91 people hospitalized with COVID-19 with at least 4 confirmed deaths of NC residents.

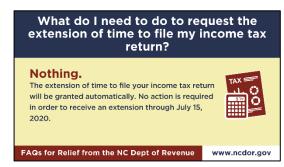
The dashboard in the link below shows cases per county and is being updated daily.

https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-case-count-nc

#### **Important Tax Information**

Tax filing day will move from April 15 to July 15. Information from the IRS can be found here: irs.gov/coronavirus

Information from the NC Department of Revenue can be found here: ncdor.gov



As far as interest on state income tax payments from April 15th, I am hopeful once the General Assembly comes back into session, that is something we can fix so that no interest will be due until July 15th.

#### The North Carolina COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Lending program

This new program supports North Carolina small businesses and family farms as they recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. This rapid recovery loan helps small businesses bridge the gap between when crisis strikes and when federal loans, insurance payouts, and other relief funds are approved, or businesses have time to recover.

This is not a grant program.

NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery loans are not designed to be a singular source of assistance for small businesses. Repayment is expected either from more permanent funding sources or from the future cash flow of the business

For more information: https://ncrapidrecovery.org/

#### **COVID-19 Internet Service Options**

In response to COVID-19, many North Carolina residents are being asked to work and learn remotely. The North Carolina Department of Information Technology has compiled a list of new and existing free or affordable service offerings.

Visit: <a href="https://www.ncbroadband.gov/covid19broadband/">https://www.ncbroadband.gov/covid19broadband/</a>



# **How to Apply for Unemployment Compensation**

If you are an employee, you are immediately eligible for unemployment compensation if you have been laid-off or had your hours reduced because of COVID-19.

You can apply for benefits online here.

#### **How to Apply for Federal Small Business Disaster Loans**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) granted Governor Roy Cooper's request for a disaster declaration for small businesses that are suffering economic losses due to COVID-19. Affected businesses may apply for low interest SBA disaster loans.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 or 1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, or by emailing <a href="mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov">disastercustomerservice@sba.gov</a>.

#### **Golden Leaf Small Business Loans**

https://ncrapidrecovery.org/

The North Carolina COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Lending program supports North Carolina small businesses and family farms as they recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. This rapid recovery loan helps small businesses bridge the gap between when crisis strikes and when federal loans, insurance payouts, and other relief funds are approved, or businesses have time to recover.

NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery loans are not designed to be a singular source of assistance for small businesses. Repayment is expected either from more permanent funding sources or from the future cash flow of the business.



#### 211 for COVID-19 Information

Text COVIDNC to 898-211 to sign up for announcements and updates.

Dial 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162 to get connected to resources. This service is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

#### **How You Can Help**

- 1) Donate blood. There is a critical need for blood donation. I gave two weeks ago, and it was pretty fast and very easy. I even answered most of the pre-donation questions online before going. Find a place to donate in our community:
  - American Red Cross
- 2) Support our local food bank. An unprecedented surge of people out of work means an unprecedented surge in demand for food donations. Support these local efforts:
  - Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. <a href="https://www.foodshuttle.org">https://www.foodshuttle.org</a>
  - Oak City Cares. <a href="https://oakcitycares.org/covid-19-agency-update/">https://oakcitycares.org/covid-19-agency-update/</a>

## **General Assembly Suspends Interim Committee Meetings**

North Carolina has a part-time legislature and it is not in session right now. We are scheduled to return to session on April 28, but Governor Cooper can call us back

into a special session on short notice if action or appropriations are needed to fight the coronavirus.

What typically happens when the legislature is not in session are interim committee meetings. These committees meet to hear progress reports on what is going on with key issues or to tackle issues that are complex and require more time and attention than what may be available during legislative session times.

Because of the coronavirus, all interim committee meetings have been suspended. School tours of the legislative building have been cancelled and legislative employees are encouraged to work from home if their job so allows.

General Assembly delays meetings over COVID-19
WRAL

There are however, 4 special COVID 19 Committees working, appointed by the Speaker. I was named Co-Chair of the Special House Committee on COVID-19 Continuity of Governmental Operations.

The Continuity of Government Operations working group shall study how the coronavirus is impacting the essential operations of state and local governments, and what can be done by the state legislature to facilitate the continued operations of those essential services.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Law enforcement and other first responders
- Emergency management
- Prison operations
- The court system
- The operations of the General Assembly
- Local government generally, including their boards and commissions
- Transportation
- Elections
- State employee pay
- The impact of federal actions on state and local governments, though not on the unemployment insurance system or taxes."

The committee will begin meeting immediately, but will be held remotely through phone or video conferencing. Our first meeting is Tuesday at 2 p.m. You can listen online at https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio/1228

We need input from citizens and educators on their best ideas. Please submit them online at:

https://www.ncleg.gov/RequestForComments/33.

#### **Beware of Price Gouging and Other Scams**

Because Governor Cooper placed North Carolina in a state of emergency, the state's price gouging law is in effect. Under the law, the Attorney General's Office can put a stop to price gouging and seek refunds for consumers who paid too much. The courts may also impose civil penalties against price gougers of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

To file a complaint visit: <a href="https://ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint/price-gouging/">https://ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint/price-gouging/</a> Attorney General warns of scams, price gouging related to coronavirus concerns
Other News

NC local governments enact piecemeal stay-at-home orders Carolina Public Press

<u>Pelosi forecasts House OK of Senate's \$2.2T virus aid plan</u> The News & Observer

Golden LEAF loans available to small businesses WRAL

<u>Law enforcement warns Americans of increasing coronavirus scams</u> WTVD

#### Contact Me

My office is Room 506 of the Legislative Office Building and my office phone number is 733-5974. **DUE TO THE STAY AT HOME ORDER, WE ARE NOT CURRENTLY IN THE** 

**OFFICE.** PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STILL CALL OR EMAIL. Angela and I are working to answer your every question. My email address is <a href="mailto:darren.jackson@ncleg.net">darren.jackson@ncleg.net</a>. I look forward to hearing from and working with you. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

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