

**Thursday, April 9th** - Governor Roy Cooper issued an Executive Order 121 that provides new required and recommended policies for retail establishments, addresses COVID-19 mitigation measures for long-term care facilities, and expedites the processing of unemployment insurance claims by expanding availability of the attached claims process. To learn more or review some FAQs about Executive Order 131, please [click here](#).

**Friday, March 27th** - Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 121, a Stay-at-Home order, effective at 5:00PM on Monday, March 30th. Businesses deemed non-essential must cease operations. Essential Businesses as defined in the order, businesses with contractors/staff who operate solely out of their own residence and businesses who meet social distancing requirements may continue operations. Review the order for details to determine if you meet these specifications. No special permit is needed for a business deemed essential or who falls under any of the categories stated above to continue operations. Read Executive Order 121: [EO121-Stay-at-Home-Order-3](#)

**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** -- **Currently, there is not a Stay at Home Order for the State of North Carolina or Catawba County.** Catawba County Public Health continues to closely monitor the coronavirus situation in Catawba County and are working directly with state and public health officials for guidance regarding any future Stay at Home actions. Until a Stay at Home Order is in place, local government cannot provide definitive guidance regarding which businesses, services, or workforce personnel would be deemed essential. Those determinations will be made by state and/or local officials based on the situation at that time. [Click and Read COVID 19 Local Business Information](#)

**Tuesday, March 23** – To help your Chamber and other economic development partners understand the local impacts of COVID-19 and how we can provide you the best assistance, we have released the Business Impact Survey. Please take several moments to submit your responses to the following survey by April 1<sup>st</sup>. [Click here](#).

**Monday, March 23rd** – Gov. Roy Cooper announces tighter restrictions on public gatherings to 50 or less and have mandated business closures for hair salons and barber shops, gyms, movie theaters and similar businesses offering activities that run counter to social distancing to close by 5 p.m. Wednesday. K-12 schools will remain closed until May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Monday, March 23rd – Interested in making personal protective equipment for frontline medical staff?** The Carolina Textile District (CTD) is working with a group of manufacturers, community leaders and healthcare professionals to begin developing COVID-19 response products, with a focus on masks and gowns. In order to act as quickly as possible, the CTD has created intake processes to help filter through the different product needs and the services offered. [Visit their website here](#).

**Thursday, March 19th** – The Families First & Coronavirus Response Act was signed into law. The economic stimulus package introduces paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave to employers and will be effective on April 2, 2020. [Read more](#)

**Wednesday, March 18** – Governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order to expand unemployment benefits to workers affected by the COVID-19 disruption. [Read more.](#)

**Wednesday, March 18-** The SBA has approved the request for North Carolina’s disaster declaration to provide low-interest federal loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19. [Applicants are encouraged to apply.](#)

**On March 17,** Governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order effective at 5:00PM that restaurants and bars will close for dine-in customers. Takeout and delivery orders can continue. [Learn more.](#)

**On March 16,** President Donald Trump issued his Coronavirus Guidelines for America, “15 Ways to Slow the Spread.” [Learn more.](#)

**On March 14,** Governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order closing all K-12 public schools in North Carolina, starting on March 16, for a minimum of two weeks. The order also prohibits mass gatherings of more than 100 people. [Learn more.](#)

**On March 12,** the NC DHHS released recommendations for employers and employees regarding mitigation measures including teleworking technologies, staggering work schedules, and considerations for canceling non-essential travel. Workplaces should hold larger meetings virtually, to the extent possible. Additionally, employers should arrange the workspace to optimize distance between employees, ideally at least six feet apart. Employers should urge high risk employees to stay home and urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits. [Learn more.](#)

**On March 10,** Governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency. The declaration activates the Emergency Operations Center to help agencies coordinate from one location and makes it easier to purchase needed medical supplies, protect consumers from price gouging, and increase county health departments’ access to state funds. In addition to Governor Cooper’s emergency declaration, the NC DHHS is making several recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the number of people infected. [Learn more.](#)

**On March 3,** North Carolina [reported](#) its first case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. COVID-19 is currently not widespread and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is providing timely updates on our state’s status. [Learn more.](#)