

Wednesday, January 27th, Governor Cooper extended the Modified Stay at Home Order through February 28, 2021 with Executive Order 189. Governor Copper is also extending the sale of “to-go” or delivery of mixed beverages through March 31, 2021 with Executive Order 190.

Wednesday, January 6th, Governor Cooper extended North Carolina’s Modified Stay At Home Order that requires people to be at home from 10 pm – 5 am to last through at least Friday, January 29th. Secretary Cohen also issued a Secretarial Directive with stark warnings for North Carolinians to avoid indoor spaces without masks and gatherings between households. Read [Executive Order 188](#). Read here for more details on the [Secretarial Directive](#).

Monday, December 21st, Governor Cooper has signed off to allow bars and restaurants to sell mixed alcoholic beverages for carryout and delivery. The order allows businesses, including restaurants, hotels, private clubs, private bars, and holders of distillery permits, to sell mixed beverages (cocktails) to-go with limitations. Read [Executive Order 183](#)

Tuesday, December 8th, Governor Roy Cooper implemented a modified stay at home order – requiring nighttime closure for certain businesses and activities for all North Carolinians during overnight hours.

- Restaurants, Bars, Entertainment Venues, Personal Care Businesses, Most Retail Stores, etc. are required to close by 10 pm
- Onsite alcohol consumption sales must end by 9 pm
- Requires people to stay at home 10 pm – 5 am
- Effective Friday, December 11th

Read [Executive Order 181](#)

Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Monday, November 23rd, Governor Roy Cooper issued additional COVID-19 safety measures to tighten mask requirements and enforcement as cases continue to rise rapidly in North Carolina and across the country. Executive Order No. 180 goes into effect on Wednesday, November 25 and runs through Friday, December 11. The Executive Order:

- Extends Phase 3 capacity limits and safety requirements.
- Tightens the existing statewide mask requirement – making it clear that everyone needs to wear a mask whenever they are with someone who is not from the same household.
- Adds the mask requirement to several additional settings including any public indoor space even when maintaining 6 feet of distance; gyms even when exercising; all schools public and private; and all public or private transportation when travelling with people outside of the household.
- Requires large retail businesses with more than 15,000 square feet to have an employee stationed near entrances ensuring mask wearing and implementing occupancy limits for patrons who enter.

Read [Executive Order 180](#)

Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Tuesday, November 10th, Governor Roy Cooper announced that Phase 3 will be extended through December 4th, 2020. The only change to Phase 3 is the indoor mass gathering limit, lowering from 25 to 10 people.

Below is the press clipping on Executive Order 176, but here are some of the key points as well as the EO and FAQs:

- North Carolina's indoor mass gathering limit will be lowered to 10 people in an effort to drive down North Carolina's key COVID-19 metrics. [Executive Order 176](#) will go into effect on Friday, November 13 and will be in place through Friday, December 4.
- As the weather gets colder, more people will be gathering indoors. Science has shown that indoor gatherings increase risk of transmission of COVID-19, and this Executive Order seeks to limit indoor gatherings that could rapidly and dangerously spread the virus.
- The Order does not change the reduced capacity limits for certain businesses that have already been laid out.

Read the [Executive Order](#).

Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Wednesday, October 21st, Governor Roy Cooper announced the extension of Executive Order 169, keeping the state in Phase 3 of lifting coronavirus restrictions. Read the [Executive Order](#).

Wednesday, September 30th, Governor Roy Cooper announced starting on Friday, October 2nd at 5:00pm, North Carolina will move to Phase 3. Here are some of the key points:

- Large outdoor venues with seating greater than 10,000 may operate with 7% occupancy for spectators.
- Smaller outdoor entertainment venues, like arenas or amphitheaters, may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Movie theaters and conference centers may open indoor spaces to 30% of capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Bars may operate outdoors at 30% of outdoor capacity, or 100 guests, whichever is less.
- Amusement parks may open at 30% occupancy, outdoor attractions only.
- The limits on mass gatherings will remain at 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors.
- The 11 pm curfew on alcohol sales for in-person consumption in locations such as restaurants and outdoor bars will be extended to October 23.

State and public health officials will continue watching the key COVID-19 trends over the next several weeks to determine if any further restrictions can be eased when the current Executive Order expires October 23.

For more information on Executive Order 169 and the FAQs for EO 169, click the links below:

Read the [Executive Order](#).

Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Thursday, September 17th, Governor Roy Cooper announced that beginning on October 5th, North Carolina public school districts and charter schools can choose to implement Plan A for elementary schools (grades K-5). Plan A continues to include important safety measures like coverings for all students, teachers and staff, social distancing, and symptom screening, but not require schools to reduce the number of children in the classroom. [Read the full press release here.](#)

Tuesday, September 1st, Governor Cooper announced that the state will move into Phase 2.5 starting Friday, September 4th at 5 PM.

Here are some key points:

- Mass gathering limits will increase to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors from the current limit of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors.
- Playgrounds may open.
- Museums and aquariums may open at 50% capacity.
- Gyms and indoor exercise facilities, such as yoga studios, martial arts, and rock climbing, as well as skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor basketball, volleyball etc., may open at 30% capacity.
- Bars, nightclubs, movie theatres, indoor entertainment facilities, amusement parks, dance hall will remain closed.
- Large venues remain subject to the mass gathering limits.

Wednesday, June 24th, Governor Cooper extended the Phase 2: Safer at Home order along with implementing a mask requirement while in public places. This new order went into effect on Friday, June 26th at 5 PM. [Read the FAQ for Executive Order 147 here.](#)

Click [here](#) to download a digital face covering poster for free to print and display. A second option can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Monday, June 8th, state health and education leaders released interim guidance this week on how North Carolina public schools can reopen next school year from the coronavirus pandemic. [Read the interim guidance here.](#)

Friday, June 5th, The Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act (PPPFA), was signed into law by President Trump which includes a number of key provisions providing greater flexibility for the PPP Program. [Read the PPPFA here](#); key points summarized below.

Wednesday, May 20th, Governor Roy Cooper announces North Carolina will move into Phase Two on Friday, May 22nd at 5 PM with [Executive Order 141](#).

Tuesday, May 5th, Governor Roy Cooper announces North Carolina will move into Phase One on Friday, May 8 at 5 PM with [Executive Order 138](#). [Business Guidance for Phase 1](#).

Monday, May 4th, Governor Roy Cooper signed SB704 & HB1043 into law which included a COVID-19 Relief package of \$1.6B for critical expenditures related to public health & safety, educational needs, small business assistance, & continuity of state govt. operations.

Friday, April 24, Governor Cooper announced that public schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Virtual learning will continue. [Read more](#)

Thursday, April 23rd, Governor Roy Cooper announced that his “Stay-At-Home” Order would remain in place through Friday, May 8, 2020. This order specifically continues his prior Executive Order 121. For more information, here is a link to today’s [Executive Order 135](#) and here is a link to [Executive Order 121](#) which was issued on March 27, 2020.

Additionally, Governor Cooper shared information about how North Carolina can gradually re-open over three phases to prevent hot spots of viral spread while also beginning to bring our economy back. These phases are based on the best information available now, but could be altered as new information emerges. To read more about Cooper’s phasing approach to re-opening NC’s economy, [click here](#).

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](#)