



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Department of Public Health

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## ***COVID-19 Update***

### **178 New COVID-19 Cases, Flu Clinics Prepare to Launch**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Department of Public Health reports 178 new COVID-19 cases and two additional deaths since the last report on Friday, Oct. 16. Cumberland County has 6,509 total COVID-19 cases in Cumberland County since the onset of the pandemic.

Using case information from Friday, Oct. 16, 5,721 cases are considered recovered. The total death toll in Cumberland from COVID-19 is 97.

Recovery data is reported using the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) estimated median time to recover of 14 days from the date of specimen collection for non-fatal COVID-19 cases who were not hospitalized, or if hospitalization status is unknown. The estimated median recovery time is 28 days from the date of specimen collection for hospitalized non-fatal COVID-19 cases. Estimates are used since patient-specific data on the actual time to resolution of all symptoms are not available for all COVID-19 cases in North Carolina.

#### **Flu Clinic Preparations**

The Cumberland County Public Health Department is preparing to launch flu immunization clinics at community organizations across the County. For the 2020-2021 flu season any adult, ages 19 and older can receive a free flu vaccination, regardless of insurance status. Children, ages 18 and younger, can also receive the free flu vaccine through the Vaccines for Children program.

Those needing a flu shot will have two options for service. Drive-thru and in-person clinic appointments. Upon arrival, participants will complete a short registration form and if insured, a copy of their insurance cards will be captured.

The public should call (910) 321-7116 to make an appointment for free flu vaccinations at the Immunization Clinic, located inside the Health Department (1235 Ramsey St., Fayetteville).

Drive-thru and other community clinic locations dates will be updated on the Cumberland Flu Clinic website at [www.co.cumberland.nc.us/fluclinic](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/fluclinic).

#### **NCDHHS Submits Vaccination Plan**

North Carolina [submitted](#) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) its [COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#). North Carolina's vaccine plan reflects five principles that guide the planning for and distribution of one or more COVID-19 vaccines in the state. The principles include:

- All North Carolinians have equitable access to vaccines.

- Vaccine planning and distribution is inclusive; actively engages state and local government, public and private partners; and draws upon the experience and expertise of leaders from historically marginalized populations.
- Transparent, accurate and frequent public communications is essential to building trust.
- Data is used to promote equity, track progress and guide decision-making.
- Appropriate stewardship of resources and continuous evaluation and improvement drive successful implementation.

### **Vote Safely During COVID-19**

NCDHHS provided guidelines for voters and local polling locations to help protect the health of North Carolinians during the voting process. In addition, NCDHHS and the NC Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management provided personal protective equipment to local election boards and locations. North Carolina residents who plan to vote in-person should wear a face mask and keep it on throughout the voting process, stay 6 feet apart from others while at the polling location, and wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after voting. [Interim Guidance for Election Voting Locations](#) and guidelines for [Voting Safely During COVID-19](#) can be found at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance#election-voting>.

### **Staying Updated**

Cumberland County has made it easy for you to stay updated on the latest information about COVID-19. You can visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#), which has a list of [COVID-19-related closures and service changes](#). The county is also sharing important information on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.