



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Department of Public Health

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## ***COVID-19 Update*** **188 New Cases, Safer at Home Phase 2.5 Announced**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Department of Public Health reports 188 new COVID-19 cases and two additional death since the Friday report. Cumberland County's case count is now 4,282 with 68 deaths.

### **North Carolina to Move to Phase 2.5**

After a summer of hard work to slow the spread of COVID-19, North Carolina can take a modest step to ease some restrictions. [Safer at Home Phase 2.5](#) starts September 4 at 5 p.m. North Carolinians must stay vigilant on mask wearing and social distancing to contain the virus.

Phase 2.5 means the following for North Carolina:

- 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 theaters, indoor entertainment facilities, amusement parks, dance halls will remain closed.
- Large venues remain subject to the mass gathering limits.

### **Community Testing Toolkit**

NCDHHS released a [Partner COVID-19 Testing Toolkit](#) designed for organizations seeking to host community testing events. The comprehensive toolkit comes in response to widespread interest among North Carolina organizations such as community-based organizations, churches and nonprofits. The toolkit is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

### **Health Department Testing**

The Health Department will continue test collection by appointment only at several locations in Cumberland. The next test collection is Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Tabernacle of Miracles (2574 Hope Mills Rd., Fayetteville, NC, 28306). Visit [co.cumberland.nc.us/covid19](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/covid19) for a complete list of testing dates and locations.

To protect the health and safety of our staff and clients, test collection is by drive-up appointment only (walk-ins cannot be accommodated at this time). Testing is free. Please do not call offsite testing locations for

assistance. The Health Department has a dedicated COVID-19 hotline ready to assist. Call (910) 678-7657 or you can make an appointment online at [co.cumberland.nc.us/covid19](https://co.cumberland.nc.us/covid19).

### **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.

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