

RESOURCES

North Carolina Coronavirus Hotline > 866.462.3821

GASTON DHHS COVID-19 CALL CENTER 704-862-5303

(attached) NC-211 for COVID-19 Information & Resource Access (food and more)

Statewide Food Sites

- Governor Roy Cooper announced today that parents who need food assistance for their children can text FOODNC to 877-877 to locate nearby free meal sites. The texting service is also available in Spanish by texting COMIDA to 877-877.

NEW Kindle [Unlimited](#)

- Get two months of unlimited reading time for free. Redeem before **11:59 p.m. (PST), April 30, 2020.**

NEW Unemployment Benefits [begin this week](#) for those affected by COVID-19

NEW Advanced Placement (AP) is offering [free, live, and on-demand AP courses](#)

NEW *(attached)* [NAMI](#) support groups offered using Zoom. Call 1-828-771-6305 to learn more about accessing this and/or assistance with food and medications.

NEW *(attached)* Gaston County Care Plan offers financial assistance to families affected by COVID-19

NEW *(attached)* Library offers free 24hrs [streaming music](#), instead of 3hrs, until September 30th

NEW *(attached)* [Ancestry.Com Library Edition](#) available to access at home until April 30th

NEW *(attached)* [First United Methodist Church in Cherryville](#) 4/2/20 Hotdog Giveaway

NEW *(attached)* City of Gastonia & Gaston DHHS collecting supplies for local Day Care Facilities 4/2/20

NEW *(attached)* Gastonia Transit is offering free rides until April 29th

NEW (*attached*) Stores Adjust Hours

NEW (*attached*) Online/Digital Recovery Supports

NEW Emergency Blood Drive @Pharr YMCA in McAdenville 4/2/20

[Soothing Resources](#) for Parents & Caregivers

Disney & Kennedy Space Center Offer [Free Online Activities](#)

[Resources for students](#) who normally receive speech & language therapy when school is in session

LOCAL UPDATES

Gaston County [COVID-19 Updates](#)

- **NEW** (*2 attached*) [“Stay at Home” Order](#) in place for Gaston County

Gaston County School [Updates](#)

- **NEW** Governor Cooper has announced that all public schools in North Carolina will remain closed for students until May 15 because of concerns related to the coronavirus. This includes Gaston County. Please know that we will share additional information with you when it is made available by the Department of Public Instruction and other state-level agencies.
- **NEW** Beginning Wednesday, March 25, we will add four locations to our "grab and go" meal program: Brookside Elementary, H.H. Beam Elementary, Tryon Elementary, and Holbrook Middle School. Meals for students can be picked up between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

Gaston College [Updates](#)

- **NEW** “In light of recent news and updated guidelines it has become necessary to postpone all Spring 2020 graduation events, including pinning ceremonies and the May 15 graduation ceremony. We share in the disappointment of all our students who have worked hard to reach this milestone, along with their family and friends who have supported them throughout their journey. Your determination to continue in light of the current circumstances is something of which to be proud. You will forever remember this time and be better prepared to face future challenges because of it.”

Partners Behavioral Health Management [Updates](#)

- [Member Updates](#)
 - **NEW** [Letter from the CEO](#)
- [Provider Updates](#)
 - **NEW** [Special Bulletin COVID-19 #20](#): Telehealth Provisions for Enhanced Behavioral Health Services

CaroMont Health [Updates](#)

Atrium Health [Updates](#)

NEW (attached) Gaston County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Advocate Hours

City of Gastonia [Updates](#)

City of Belmont [Updates](#)

- ["Keep the Lights On"](#)
 - Belmont has compiled information from many of our local businesses and restaurants on how they are changing their services in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak and the Governor's executive order. Please check back frequently for updates or to link directly to the business' websites or social media pages.

Bessemer City [Updates](#)

Lowell [Updates](#)

Mt. Holly [Updates](#)

Town of Randle [Updates](#)

Stanley [Updates](#)

United Way of Gaston County "[Gaston Virus Relief Fund](#)"

- **NEW** \$231,357.47 raised as of 3/30/20

STATE/NATIONAL UPDATES

NEW President Trump [extends COVID-19 Guidelines](#) to April 30th

Center for Disease Control (CDC) [Updates](#)

North Carolina Department of Human & Health Services (NC-DHHS) [Updates](#)

- **NEW** NC Stay at Home Order in Effect March 30th @5pm
 - [Executive Order 121](#)
 - Stay at Home Order [FAQ](#)
- **NEW** [Executive Order 122](#)
 - “Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No. 122 to help schools and local governments access state surplus property to help bridge gaps during the response to COVID-19”
- **NEW** COVID-19 [March 30th Update](#)
 - 19,000 in NC have been tested
 - 1,206 reported cases of COVID-19
 - Mecklenburg has highest number of cases at 336 followed by Wake County at 166
 - 91 people in the hospital, statewide, for COVID-19
- **NEW** Live Updates, when scheduled, are [found here](#)

NEW [The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#)

- In accordance with Governor Roy Cooper’s Executive Order 117 and Wake County Government’s order to stay at home to help limit the spread of COVID-19, the NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is limiting certain operations. We will not be mailing any materials or accepting any materials returned after Friday, March 27. Please do not send any materials back until you are notified that we are accepting materials by return mail.
- While mailing operations are suspended, you can download titles to an android, kindle fire, or iOS device for easy playback through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. You can also download the books to a USB drive for use with your digital player.
- To get started, visit <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/NLS/ApplicationInstructions.html>. If you have questions or wish to learn more, please contact LBPH by email at nclbph@ncdcr.gov as we won’t be able to respond to your voicemail message. We understand the hardship this situation may cause for you and apologize for any inconvenience.

NEW Small Business Administration

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): [Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#)

Internal Revenue Service

- Tax filing date moved to July 15, 2020

Duke Energy [Updates](#)

- **NEW** McGuire Nuclear Plant [Siren Test April 8th](#)
- (3/21/20) [via Spectrum News](#)- Effective Saturday, March 21, Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas say in addition to the waived late and return payment fees, residential customers will also have fees for credit and debit card payments waived.

Cell Phone Company Updates

- AT&T [Updates](#)
 - **NEW** [3/30/20 Updates](#)
 - **More mobile hotspot data** – We are automatically increasing mobile hotspot data by 15GB a month for each line on an unlimited plan that currently includes a monthly tethering allotment. That means if you're on AT&T Unlimited Elite you'll automatically get 45GB a month of tethering per line. [Click here](#) to see how to setup your mobile hotspot.
 - **What you want online, even easier** – When you purchase or upgrade your device online, we'll give you free express shipping, as well as waive or credit the activation, upgrade and restocking fees. We're also giving wireless customers 20% off accessories when you order through [att.com/accessories](#). Exclusions and restrictions apply.
- Verizon [Updates](#)
 - **NEW** [3/30/20 Corporate Update](#)
 - [Verizon gives customers learning tools and premium TV at no additional cost to assist with new at-home realities](#)
- **NEW** T-Mobile [Updates](#)
- **NEW** Straight Talk Wireless [Updates](#)
 - Straight Talk has partnered with SafeLink Wireless® to offer assistance for income eligible, if you are a participant in Snap or Medicaid you could qualify. [Click here](#) to apply
- **NEW** Boost Mobile [Updates](#)
 - Waiving reactivation fees for customers through April 30, 2020
 - Customers currently on an unlimited data plan with Boost Mobile, will automatically receive an additional 20 Gigs of [mobile hotspot](#) on their plans at no extra cost through April 30, 2020. No need to call care or update your account through [boostmobile.com](#)
 - Customers currently on a capped data plan (including WiFi Hotspot plans) with Boost Mobile, will automatically receive an additional 20 Gigs of data on their plans at no extra cost through April 30, 2020

Bank Updates

- Bank of America [Updates](#)
- BB&T & Suntrust [Updates](#)
- Fifth Third Bank [Updates](#)
- Wells Fargo [Updates](#)
- First Citizen Bank [Updates](#)
- State Employees Credit Union [Updates](#)

Pharmacies

- Walgreens [Updates](#)
 - We play a critical role in providing patients and customers access to the care, products and services they need, and this is even more important as we work around the clock to support the COVID-19 pandemic. We are offering additional, select products at the pharmacy drive-thru to offer our customers convenience and peace of mind as communities across the country practice social distancing to fight the spread of COVID-19
- CVS [Updates](#)
 - Beginning immediately, CVS Pharmacy will waive charges for home delivery of prescription medications, which will help patients avoid visiting their local CVS Pharmacy for refills or new prescription

Insurers

- Cigna [Updates](#)
 - Cigna is [waiving customer cost-sharing](#) for all COVID-19 treatment through **May 31, 2020**.
- Humana [Updates](#)
 - Humana, a national health care company, [has announced](#) it is waiving consumer costs for treatment related to COVID-19-covered services. The company previously announced that it would cover out-of-pocket costs related to coronavirus testing. Now, costs related to subsequent treatment for COVID-19—including inpatient hospital admissions— will be waived for enrollees of Medicare Advantage plans, fully insured commercial members, Medicare Supplement and Medicaid.
- BCBSNC [Updates](#)
 - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) will provide coverage and waive cost-sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) for COVID-19 testing or for a doctor visit or call to determine if testing is necessary.
- Aetna [Updates](#)
 - Aetna is [waiving member cost-sharing](#) for diagnostic testing related to COVID-19. This policy covers the cost of a physician-ordered test and the office, clinic or emergency room visit that results in the administration of or order for a COVID-19 test

Walmart [Updates](#)

- Find Store Hour Updates using the [Store Locator](#)
- March 24 to April 28, our stores will host a [senior shopping hour every Tuesday](#) for customers age 60 and older who may be more vulnerable. This will start one hour before the store opens. Our pharmacies and vision centers will also be open during this time.

Amazon [Updates](#)

- **NEW** 3/31/20 Daily Update
 - We are working quickly to deliver groceries and essential items to customers as fast as possible through Whole Foods Market, Amazon Fresh, and Prime Now. We're also prioritizing the health and safety of our employees and customers, and we've put in place enhanced cleanliness and sanitation efforts. See the photos below of our grocery employees, and [read more](#).

Starbucks [Update](#)

- STARBUCKS [OFFERS FREE COFFEE](#) TO FRONT-LINE RESPONDERS

[Comprehensive List](#) of how companies are responding to COVID-19

LEARNING

NEW (5 attached) Some Good News Article Headlines from Ramsey Solutions

NEW Neighbors taking care of neighbors in [Lowell community](#)

NEW Parents of children living with Autism [face unique challenges](#) during COVID-19 restrictions

NEW Call "211" [NOT "911"](#) for information about COVID-19

NEW Free book (multiple languages), called ["COVIBOOK"](#), to explain COVID-19 to your children

Charlotte Observer ["lifts paywall"](#) to allow people to access their news during this time

World Health Organization [COVID-19 Infographs](#)

NEW John Hopkins COVID-19 [Real-Time Map](#)

NEW Weather Channel [COVID-19 Interactive Map & Dashboards](#)

SCAM ALERT

NEW *(attached)* Facebook SCAM

NEW COVID-19 Scam Roundup

- 3/30/20
 - *(attached)* FAKE Corona Antivirus -World's best protection."
 - Yes, the malicious actors would have had you actually believe that antivirus could protect you against COVID-19!
 - *(attached)* FAKE Netflix Pass
 - As you can see in the image shared above, the link did not lead users to the legitimate Netflix domain "[netflix.com](https://www.netflix.com)"
 - *(attached)* FAKE "CoronaVirus Finder"
 - The website claimed that users could reveal the number of people infected with COVID-19 near them in exchange for a small fee. It is a trick to get your credit card information.
 - *(attached)* FAKE CornoVirus Safety Mask as gift
 - Upon visiting the site [hxxp://coronasafetymask.tk](https://coronasafetymask.tk), researchers at [ZScaler](#) found a message informing users that they would receive a "Corona safety mask" if they agreed to download an app. The app did leverage its "read contacts" permission to collect all of a victim's contacts and send out SMS messages that spread the scam even further.

Social Security Suspension Scam

- The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning the public about fraudulent letters threatening suspension of Social Security benefits due to COVID-19 or coronavirus-related office closures. The Social Security Administration (SSA) will not suspend or discontinue benefits because their offices are closed.