



COVID-19 County Alert System

Updated November 23, 2020

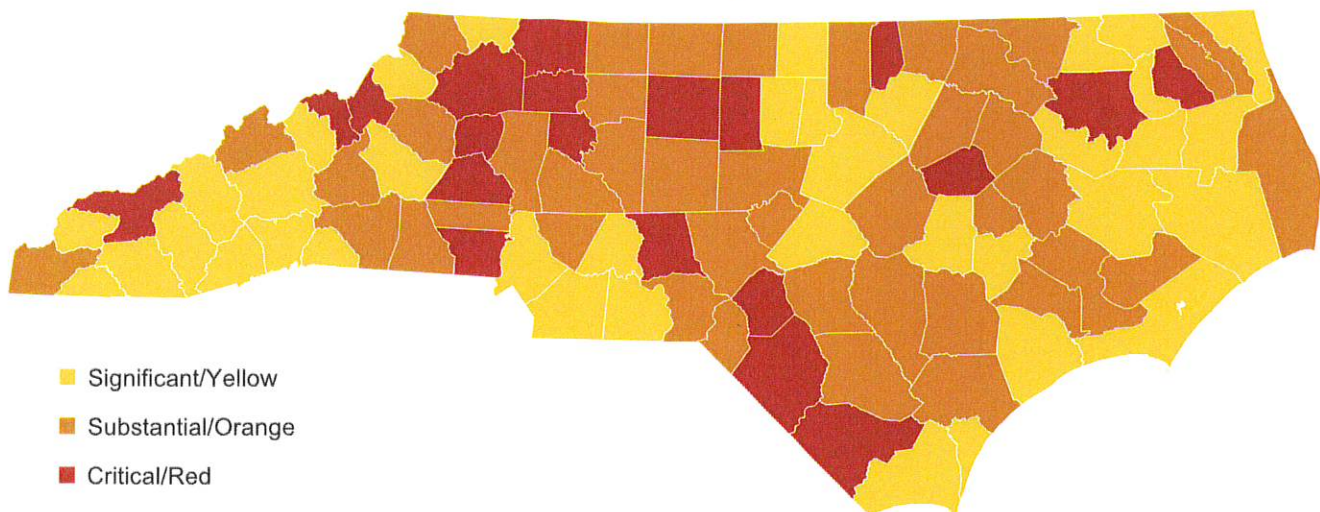
Introduction

North Carolina is experiencing high levels of community transmission of COVID-19 statewide, but the virus is impacting some counties particularly hard. The State has established a COVID-19 County Alert System to give individuals, businesses, community organizations, and public officials another tool to understand how their county is faring and to make decisions about actions to slow the spread of the virus. The COVID-19 County Alert System uses metrics informed by the White House Coronavirus Task Force and North Carolina's key metrics to categorize counties into three tiers:

1. **Yellow:** Significant Community Spread
2. **Orange:** Substantial Community Spread
3. **Red:** Critical Community Spread

Because no one metric provides a complete picture, the COVID-19 County Alert System uses a combination of three metrics: case rate, the percent of tests that are positive, and hospital impact within the county.

NC Counties by Tier: Data from November 6 through November 19, 2020



A complete list of counties and their metrics is listed at the end of the report.

County Metrics

The COVID-19 County Alert System uses a combination of metrics to determine whether a county meets criteria to be in the red or orange tier. These metrics provide information about the amount of viral spread and hospital impact in the county.

Recommended Actions for Individuals, Businesses and Community Organizations, and Public Officials

There are critical actions we can all take to slow the spread of COVID-19, regardless of whether your county is currently in the yellow, orange, or red tier. Individuals, businesses, community organizations, and public officials all have a responsibility to take these recommended actions, in addition to following the requirements in existing [Executive Orders](#) and [NCDHHS guidance](#). Red and orange counties need to do even more to slow the spread of COVID-19 in their communities; it is strongly recommended these counties go further and build upon current requirements as outlined in the recommendations below.

Note: If more than 25% of cases are linked to outbreaks in congregate living settings, different and additional outbreak mitigation steps may be recommended. Congregate living setting outbreaks are often linked to spread in the community through staff who are exposed in the community and bring the virus into the setting or vice versa.



Individual Actions

ALL INDIVIDUALS

- Wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance from people who do not live in your household
- Download the [SlowCOVIDNC app](#) and share with friends and family; if you test positive, enter your pin into the app to notify close contacts to get tested
- Get a flu shot
- Get [tested](#) if [symptomatic](#) or if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19
- Answer the call and participate in contact tracing
- Avoid large gatherings and crowds
- If you must host or attend a gathering, limit attendance to 10 or fewer, host outdoors, and ventilate indoor spaces as much as possible (e.g., keep windows open) (resources: [Guidance for Private Social Gatherings](#))
- Avoid non-essential travel

INDIVIDUALS IN RED AND ORANGE COUNTIES

Individuals in red and orange counties should take the actions listed for All Individuals AND the actions below to slow the spread of COVID-19 in their community.

- Limit mixing between households and minimize the number of people in your social circle
- Avoid settings where people congregate, like outdoor bars and night clubs (in NC, indoor bars remain closed and indoor night clubs must remain below indoor mass gathering limits)
- If patronizing restaurants, consider ordering take out from restaurants and/or eating outdoors socially distanced
- Individuals who are [high-risk for developing serious illness](#) should consider staying at home as much as possible
- Reduce your public interactions to mainly essential activities like going to work or school, caring for family members, buying food, getting health care or picking up medications



Businesses & Community Organization Actions

ALL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Share messages about the importance of wearing a mask and [practicing the 3Ws](#)
- Post [signs about 3Ws at entrances in accordance with executive order](#)
- Provide face coverings to employees and patrons (resources: certain organizations can [request PPE](#))
- Support employees to stay home when sick (resources: [Check My Symptoms](#))
- Strongly encourage all employees download and use the [SlowCOVIDNC app](#)
- Follow [general guidance for businesses and organizations](#) as well as [industry-specific guidance](#)
- Take actions from the [business toolkit](#)
- Community and religious organizations are strongly encouraged to:
 - Hold meetings, events, and/or services online/virtually, or
 - Limit occupancy at indoor meetings, events, or services to ensure social distancing and require face coverings
- Follow guidance in [Places of Worship Guidance](#) and [Faith Leaders Toolkit](#)

BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN RED AND ORANGE COUNTIES

Businesses and community organizations in red and orange counties should take actions listed for All Businesses and Community Organizations AND actions below to slow the spread of COVID-19 in their community.

- All businesses are strongly encouraged to implement teleworking the greatest extent possible and cancel any non-essential work travel
- Promote [Find My Testing Place](#) website to employees
- Require all employees to participate in [Count on Me NC training](#)
- Manufacturing, construction, food processing, farms – request a consultation from NCDHHS on reducing workplace transmission (919-707-5900)
- [Institutes of Higher Education](#)
 - Adopt strict restrictions on student gatherings and events on-campus and off-campus
 - Close indoor dining and move to grab and go
 - Consider moving to single occupancy dorms or other single occupancy living arrangements
- Community and religious organizations should avoid any in-person indoor meetings, events, worship services, or other gatherings above the indoor mass gathering limit

Metrics by County (CONTINUED)

County	Final Tier	14-day Case Rate Per 100,000	14-day Percent Positive^	Hospital Impact
Madison County	Substantial/Orange	524.0	8.9%	Low Impact
Martin County	Significant/Yellow	311.9	5.2%	Low Impact
McDowell County	Substantial/Orange	548.6	7.4%	Moderate Impact
Mecklenburg County	Significant/Yellow	393.8	7.6%	Low Impact
Mitchell County	Critical/Red	895.5	12.8%	Low Impact
Montgomery County	Critical/Red	312.8	10.1%	Low Impact
Moore County	Substantial/Orange	304.3	7.2%	Moderate Impact
Nash County	Substantial/Orange	464.5	8.4%	Low Impact
New Hanover County	Significant/Yellow	350.1	7.1%	Low Impact
Northampton County	Substantial/Orange	626.2	9.8%	Moderate Impact
Onslow County	Significant/Yellow	450.6	7.0%	Low Impact
Orange County	Significant/Yellow	262.7	3.4%	Low Impact
Pamlico County	Substantial/Orange	275.0*	5.2%	Moderate Impact
Pasquotank County	Substantial/Orange	243.6	8.4%	Low Impact
Pender County	Substantial/Orange	328.3	9.0%	Low Impact
Perquimans County	Critical/Red	326.8	11.5%	Low Impact
Person County	Significant/Yellow	298.8	7.0%	Low Impact
Pitt County	Substantial/Orange	433.8	7.0%	Moderate Impact
Polk County	Significant/Yellow	164.1	4.6%	Low Impact
Randolph County	Substantial/Orange	518.6	10.0%	Moderate Impact
Richmond County	Substantial/Orange	508.6	8.9%	Low Impact
Robeson County	Critical/Red	422.6	10.3%	Low Impact
Rockingham County	Substantial/Orange	473.6	8.8%	Low Impact
Rowan County	Substantial/Orange	494.1	9.9%	Low Impact
Rutherford County	Substantial/Orange	432.6	8.5%	Moderate Impact
Sampson County	Substantial/Orange	574.5	9.5%	Low Impact
Scotland County	Substantial/Orange	413.5	9.0%	Moderate Impact
Stanly County	Significant/Yellow	383.7	7.2%	Low Impact