



## Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

**April 13, 2021**

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

### **Important Updates**

- **New:** NCDHHS LHD Weekly Webinar 4 13 2021.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

### **Healthier Together**

- CDC has just released a HAN describing “**Cases of Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia after Receipt of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine.**” Information is available here: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00442.asp>
- **Identification:** The need for an identification card presents a barrier for many populations within our state, including older adults, particularly those from racial and ethnic minority groups, immigrants, and homeless individuals. Providers should not ask people for photo identification (this includes government IDs, such as drivers licenses). Recognizing the need to confirm names, addresses and dates of birth, vaccine providers are encouraged to adopt practices that do not include requesting a photo ID. Instead, for example, they can ask people to pre-register, allow people to complete a form on-site with their name, address and date of birth, or ask for a bill with a name and address. Vaccine providers should not withhold vaccinations because an individual could not or refused to present identification or proof of residency.
- **Language access:** A service email address is available for vaccine providers requesting assistance with connections to resources to better serve individuals with communications needs, including limited English proficiency: [communication.access@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:communication.access@dhhs.nc.gov).
- Through the **Healthier Together initiative**, the NC Counts Coalition is aiming to release an RFP for community-based organizations to apply for grants to support vaccine equity efforts (will be awarding from a pool of \$500,000) early next week. Funding for CBOs will focus on activities to drive demand for vaccine in HMP communities.

### **State Epidemiologist Update**

- COVID-19 activity continues to increase nationally, especially in the Upper Midwest and the Northeast. The incidence in North Carolina is increasing gradually, particularly among 18-24 year-olds and African Americans.
- The B.1.1.7 variant first identified in the United Kingdom has become the predominant SARS-CoV-2 virus circulating in the US. National and state-level data on variants is available on the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) site.



- NCDHHS is working to identify vaccine breakthrough cases by linking data from CVMS and NC COVID. In the meantime, providers are also asked to continue reporting suspected breakthrough cases at [https://is.gd/NC\\_vaccinebreakthrough](https://is.gd/NC_vaccinebreakthrough).
- NCDHHS has posted [guidance](#) regarding COVID-19 quarantine and presence of COVID-19 antibodies.

### **Surge Staffing Requests Update**

- To date, 342 requests have been fulfilled: over eleven hundred national guardsmen, sert partner staff, state employees, volunteers from the general public, and contractors to local health departments.
- In an effort to improve the process we will be introducing a weekly survey in order to reduce the number of phone calls and questions LHDs receive from our Division of Public Health (DPH) Surge Staffing Team and also increase the number of DHHS surge personnel we can provide
- The request cycle begins each Friday with the survey link distributed to you by email. Please enter anticipated surge needs by Tuesday for the next week, and you will receive a surge staff schedule by Friday for the next week.
- The option to request surge staff through CCNC remains an option.
- If you have questions, you can send them to [vaxsurgestaff@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:vaxsurgestaff@dhhs.nc.gov)

### **Find My Testing Place**

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to [SVC\\_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov)