On Saturday, March 14th, Governor Roy Cooper ordered all K-12 public schools in North Carolina to close for a minimum of two weeks in response to COVID-19. The Executive Order also bans gatherings of more than 100 people. North Carolina currently has 23 people in 12 counties who have tested positive for COVID-19.

- Press Release
- Executive Order

Questions

We know this change and the additional guidance below has **massive impact on BH/IDD provider operations**. The Department is working aggressively to identify every flexibility possible to help sustain provider operations and refocus their work in this time to be of best use in the midst of this pandemic response. A team is working through changes of regulatory, contractual, and payment rules in effort to maximize our ability to support those that are currently need our care and those that will need our care even more as a result of this event.

Please send your questions to a new email box we have established: BHIDD.COVID.Qs@dhhs.nc.gov. Working with other providers and associations to come up with common lists of prioritized questions is most helpful. As we resolve issues, we will push out updated information and we will be sure to alert every provider that has emailed us, in addition to our other notification lists.

Staying Updated

Things are evolving rapidly. We recognize information moving with this speed can cause anxiety. We are constantly working to refine our communication to improve it and make sure everyone is getting the information they need. We appreciate your patience and your understanding as we work to move as quickly as we need to safeguard against this pandemic. Here are ways to stay updated:

- Follow the Department on twitter: @NCDHHS
- Follow me on Twitter: @KodyKinsley
- Check this website: www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus
    - On that website, this is where you will always find the most recent updates: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/nc-updates
- If you have specific questions or concerns related to coronavirus, call 866-462-3821 for more information. In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

New Education and Nutrition Working Group

Governor Cooper has appointed an Education and Nutrition Working Group to develop a plan to ensure that children and families are supported while schools are closed. The working group will focus on issues including nutrition, health, childcare access for critical health care and other front-line workers and learning support for children at home.

“I am standing up this new working group to ensure that children have enough food to eat, families have care in safe places for their young children, and student learning continues,” Governor Cooper said.

Guidance

The website includes guidance and resources for a range of stakeholders. Information is changing rapidly and will be added and updated:

- Businesses and Employers
- Child Care Centers
- Colleges and Universities
- Community and Faith-Based Organizations
- Community Events and Mass Gatherings
- Correctional Facilities
- First Responders
- Health Care Providers, Hospitals, and Laboratories
- Homeless Shelters
- K-12 Schools
- Local Health Departments
- Long-term Facilities
- Malls and Shopping Centers
- Mass Transit
- Migrant Farm Workers and their Employers
- Public Facing Businesses and Agencies
- Restaurants and Bars
- Syringe Service Programs
- Working with People with Disabilities

Events are changing rapidly, and we will continue to do our best to share to ensure you have the latest information.