



MEMORANDUM

To: Manager Jones
From: EOC Manager
Date: May 14, 2021
Subject: COVID Update

Background

The following report offers an overview of the Town's response activities to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town's Emergency Operations Center remains activated, Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 5:00pm. This report is not comprehensive but offers information and updates about key initiatives as well as responses to Council Member questions from the past week. Additional information is available upon request.

Summary of this Week's COVID-19 Press Briefings

Thursday, May 13, 2021 –The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their guidance for fully vaccinated people, stating that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

Updated information is available on the CDC's [Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html)¹ page.

Friday, May 14, 2021 – Following yesterday's CDC announcement, Governor Roy Cooper and Dr. Mandy Cohen announced that, effective immediately, most statewide COVID-19 mask-wearing and capacity requirements are lifted. There are still some exceptions for mask-wearing in group settings like buses, hospitals, and homeless shelters. He still urged people to get vaccinated if they have not yet and to continue wearing a mask until they're vaccinated. Anyone already vaccinated who feels more comfortable wearing a mask may do so.

Local government agencies and private businesses are still able to establish their own requirements, though Cooper noted that most local governments are following State guidance and he expects them to continue to do so.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

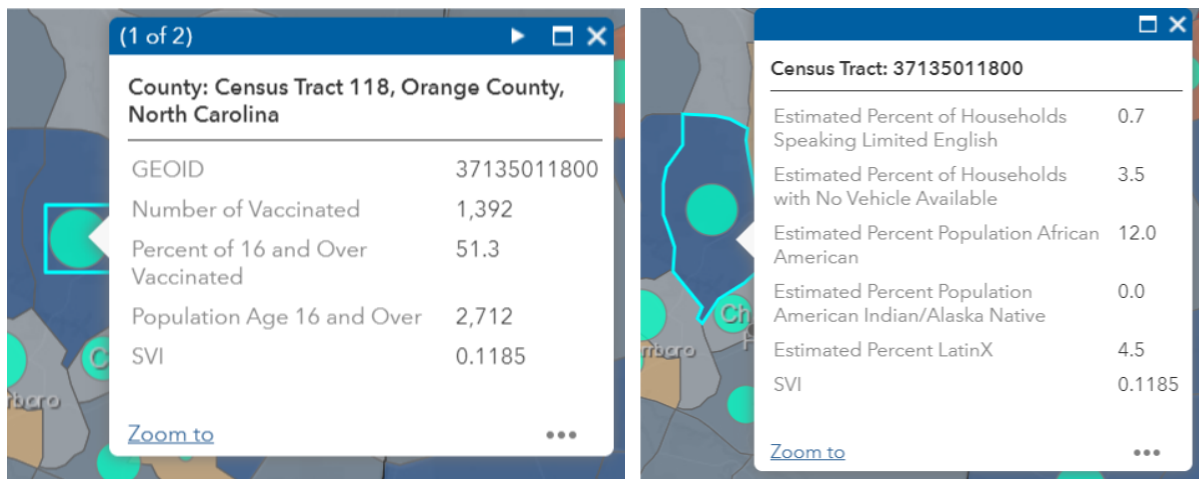


North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Secretary Mandy Cohen noted that COVID cases among North Carolinians under age 17 are still increasing. For this reason, mask requirements for children in childcare, schools, camps, and similar settings remain in effect.

The State’s [Bringing Summer Back](#)² initiative will continue urging all North Carolina residents to get vaccinated.

Vaccination Update

The NCDHHS has begun sharing an interactive map of [Vaccinations by Census Tract](#)³. (Note: Click anywhere in the Census Tract for demographic info. Click in the middle of a circle for vaccination info for that Census Tract. See images below.) Orange County Health Department (OCHD) is using this data to help inform decisions about targeted outreach for their mobile vaccination team.



On a related note, OCHD’s mobile team now has three vans (up from one) that they’re using to deliver vaccines to hard-to-reach populations. The County allocated fuel to the mobile team this week during the shortage, ensuring their vans were able to keep all vaccine appointments.

Beginning Friday, May 14, OCHD will vaccinate community members 12-15 years old. This can be done by scheduling an appointment or walking into a vaccine clinic. OCHD is also partnering with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools to provide vaccine clinics on school sites, open to parents and eligible students. The first clinic is scheduled for Friday, May 21.

² <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/BringSummerBack>

³ <https://nc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=31df85b470ad49809445a2d83e80d269>



Human Services Update

This week the Food Bank fed 260 families and 540 individuals. This fell short of the goal for the week with the weather (rain on Wednesday) and fuel shortages believed to have affected turnout.

OCHD reported that, with help from the County's Street Outreach (SOHRAD) team, officials have been successfully delivering vaccinations to unsheltered community members. This includes following back up with a second dose for a two-dose vaccine.