



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

October 1, 2020

Dear Faith Leaders,

This has been a hard and challenging year, and I want to thank you for your leadership and all that you do to protect our communities as we navigate this unprecedented time. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is committed to helping.

While the pandemic is global, the way we slow the spread of this virus is local, through on-the-ground, collective action and shared responsibility. This could include getting out the word about local testing events, hosting a community testing event, encouraging people to participate in contact tracing, ensuring community members are aware of available support resources, or simply encouraging members of your community to ["Get Behind the Mask."](#)

So, we are asking for your help. Please visit our new toolkit for faith leaders ([English/Spanish](#)) where you will find a list of action items that we are asking you to consider, along with tailored resources to help implement each action item. For example, one action you can take is helping to get the word out about the importance of wearing a mask. To make it easy for you to help get the word out, we have included sharable social media graphics and videos, sample newsletter language, and links to request masks.

We also want to make it easy for you to share information with your congregation or faith community. In this toolkit, we have provided comprehensive talking points for your use when sharing information about prevention, testing, contact tracing, and quarantine and isolation support resources. We will continue to update the webpage with new materials, so please check back often. All materials are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

I also want to call your attention to our updated guidance for places of worship ([English/Spanish](#)). The guidance will help places of worship reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Thank you for your partnership as we all work to ensure every North Carolinian has the information and support they need to protect themselves and their loved ones. Together, we will slow the spread.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy K. Cohen".

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary