



# Interim Guidance for Election Voting Locations (2022 Elections)

This guidance provides steps that should be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in election voting locations.

**Guidelines for Voting Locations:** Any scenario in which many people gather poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. Election officials should create and implement a plan to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission at all voting locations, where groups of people gather in an enclosed space. The guidance below will help election voting locations reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Spreading out the time and locations that individuals can vote is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19. Strategies like these can help reduce voters' risk of exposure and keep our communities safer.

## **This guidance covers the following topics:**

- Vaccination
- Masking
- Ventilation
- Cleaning and Hygiene
- Monitoring for Symptoms

## **Vaccination**

Vaccination is the most efficient control measure available to protect against COVID-19, particularly to prevent severe illness and death. It is therefore strongly encouraged that everyone remain up to date on vaccinations, and persons not yet vaccinated get vaccinated. Even if individuals have been ill with COVID-19 previously, getting a vaccine significantly reduces the risk of reinfection.

For more information go to [Find Your Spot, Take Your Shot](#). For guidance on vaccinations, please refer to [Protecting Each Other from COVID-19](#).

## Masking

### It is recommended that election officials at all voting locations:

- Remind voters, observers and electioneers to wear a mask for at least 10 days after symptom onset or testing positive for COVID-19, unless a mask use exemption applies.
- Remind voters, observers and electioneers to wear a mask for 10 days following an exposure to a person with COVID-19, unless a mask use exemption applies.
- Encourage voters, observers, and electioneers that are high risk for severe disease, are unvaccinated or are not up to date on vaccines, to wear a mask in indoor settings.
- Provide masks, if individuals need them.
- Share guidance and information on the proper use, choice of, wearing, removal, and cleaning of masks, such as [CDC's Guide to Masks](#). Visit [NCDHHS' COVID-19 response site](#) for more information about masks, and to access sign templates that are available in English and Spanish.

## Ventilation

### It is recommended that election officials at all voting locations:

- Maintain improved air flow throughout indoor spaces when possible, such as:
  - Opening windows
  - Using air filters
  - Turning on fans and keeping them on throughout the day
  - Ensuring restroom exhaust fans are running while the building is occupied when possible

## Cleaning and Hygiene

Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer reduces the spread of transmission.

### It is recommended that election officials at all voting locations:

- Clean surfaces once a day, prioritizing high-touch surfaces. If there has been a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean and disinfect the space using an EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).
- [Wash their hands](#) frequently (e.g., before entering the polling location, before and after breaks or shifts, after touching or handling masks or PPE, after using the restroom, after touching shared surfaces or objects) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at entrances and other areas in the voting place as needed.
- Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers throughout the day and ensure soap and paper towels or hand drying devices are available.

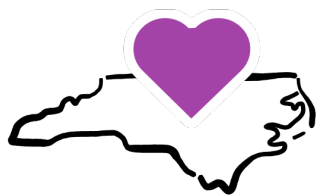
## Monitoring for Symptoms

Election officials should be encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or new loss of smell or taste. If they develop symptoms, they should notify the county board of

elections and stay home, or return home if they were at the election site. More information on [how to monitor for symptoms](#) is available from the CDC.

**It is recommended that election officials at all voting locations:**

- Have a plan in place for immediately removing election workers if symptoms develop while at the voting location. Employees who have symptoms when they arrive at the voting site or become sick during their shift should immediately be separated from other workers and the public and be sent home or to their healthcare provider.
- Educate election workers about symptoms and when they should [stay home](#) and when they can return to work.
- Encourage election workers to get tested if they were exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Have any symptomatic election workers wear a mask until they are able to leave the facility.
- [Per CDC guidelines](#), if an individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, the individual should [isolate](#) until:
  - It has been five days since the date the positive specimen was collected (with the date of collection being day 0) for those without symptoms OR
  - It has been at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms; AND
  - It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving
- Offer alternative voting options for voters with symptoms, those who are sick or known COVID-19 positive. Alternative voting options should minimize exposure between election workers and voters, such as curbside voting for sick voters. Election workers assisting voters with symptoms should be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks and gloves, and wash hands afterwards.
- Ensure voting options are accessible to voters with disabilities.



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**Staying apart brings us together.  
Protect your family and neighbors.**

**Learn more at [nc.gov/covid19](https://nc.gov/covid19).**



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