



## Voting Safely During COVID-19

As NC residents prepare to vote this election season, both polling locations and voters have a role to play in reducing exposure to COVID-19. Election officials have been asked to create and implement plans to minimize viral spread at polling locations, including encouraging mask wearing, social distancing requirements, and sanitation protocols. Voters also have the responsibility to protect themselves and others during the voting process.

### Voting Guidelines

For all North Carolina voters, be prepared to vote during the [2021 municipal elections](#) by:

- Confirming your [voter registration status](#).
- [Verifying your voting location and location's requirements](#) in advance as they may have been affected by COVID-19, including information regarding voters with disabilities.
- Reviewing your sample ballot in advance of voting to reduce time at your polling place. Sample ballots are available through the State Board of Elections' [Voter Search](#) tool.

### In-Person Voting Guidelines

Not all municipalities permit absentee by mail or in-person early voting. Confirm in advance if you will need to vote at your Election Day polling place. If you plan to vote in-person, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recommend the following protective measures:

- All North Carolinians are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Information can be found at [Find Your Spot, Take Your Shot](#). For guidance on vaccinations, please refer to our [Interim Guidance for Individuals Who Have Been Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#) and [Recommendations for Protecting Each Other](#).
- **Wear a face mask when you go to vote and keep it on throughout the voting process.** Free masks will be available at all early voting sites and Election Day precincts for voters who do not bring one.
- **While at your polling location, stay 6-feet apart from others, including other voters if you have to wait in line.**
- **Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after voting at your polling location. Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol will be available at every voting place.**
- **Consider voting at off-peak times**, such as mid-morning, to avoid crowds.
- **Stay home if you do not feel well.** Voters are encouraged to isolate away from people if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms. If you or a household member is experiencing any [COVID-19 symptoms](#), contact your health care provider about getting tested. If you do visit a voting site when you are experiencing symptoms, **vote curbside** rather than entering the voting place.

### Additional Resources

- NCDHHS: [North Carolina COVID-19](#)
- [State Board of Elections](#)