



## 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 extended hours, mask requirements, 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 on or by November 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

For North Carolina residents who 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:

- **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 before and after voting at your polling location. While inside the polling place, voters may use an alcohol-based sanitizer, containing at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer 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.

### Voting By Mail

North Carolina residents should vote by mail if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are currently isolating. The North Carolina deadline to apply to [vote by mail/vote absentee](#) is October 27. Voters are encouraged to request their ballot as soon as possible.

**Check your [local election office website](#)** for more information on voting alternatives within your jurisdiction, such as early voting.

### Additional Resources

- NCDHHS: [North Carolina COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Considerations for Election Polling Locations and Voters](#)
- CDC: [Recommendations for Voters](#)
- State Board of [Elections](#)