



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

December 11, 2020

Dear Local Government Officials:

We write today to strongly encourage you to adopt local ordinances to establish civil penalties for violations of the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders. This gives law enforcement and other local government officials more flexibility to enforce Executive Order 181 and other COVID-19 Orders. We are attaching a recent advisory letter from the North Carolina Department of Justice concluding that you have this legal authority.

This pandemic is threatening to overwhelm the capacity of our hospitals and health care workers, and we all want people seeking medical care to have a hospital or ICU bed if they need it for COVID-19, a heart attack or any other ailment.

We have been working closely with local health departments and law enforcement agencies and many have become more vigilant in their work to make sure people comply with COVID-19 Executive Orders to keep their communities safe. We believe it is imperative that you help give them more tools to do their jobs, as well as set good examples by continuing yourselves with the *Three W's* (*Wear a face covering, Wait six feet apart and Wash your hands*). Your leadership can make a powerful impact and save lives.

Thank you for considering these additional measures to slow the spread of the virus. We appreciate all the work you are doing every day to protect your communities.

Still, we are seeing record highs in cases, percentage positive and hospitalizations. Too many North Carolinians are getting sick and dying. We need your strong action and leadership.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Roy Cooper in black ink.
Roy Cooper

Handwritten signature of Mandy K. Cohen in black ink.

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary
NC Dept. of Health & Human Services

Handwritten signature of Erik A. Hooks in blue ink.

Erik A. Hooks
Secretary
NC Dept. of Public Safety