



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DANIEL J FOREST LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 14, 2020

Dr. Mandy Cohen  
Secretary, NCDHHS  
Via Electronic Mail to: [Mandy.Cohen@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Mandy.Cohen@dhhs.nc.gov)

Dear Secretary Cohen,

Over the past few weeks, our state's health officials have done an admirable job slowing the spread of coronavirus and "flattening the curve," ensuring that our hospital systems are able to adequately care for the sick.

Now, it's time to start planning how to rebuild. We must repair North Carolina's economy, which has been seriously damaged by our response to COVID-19. This, too, is a matter of life and death.

As you know, the health of a state's economy is inextricably linked to the health of the state's people. Prolonged economic distress leads to depression, anxiety, domestic violence, and suicide. Even for people who have been able to keep working, extended periods of social isolation begin to take a toll on everyone's emotional wellbeing.

Restarting North Carolina's economy must be a team effort. The Governor, his Cabinet, each member of the Council of State, and the members of the General Assembly all bring unique and valuable perspectives to the table. I encourage you and the Governor to bring those perspectives to the table to create the best possible reopening plan for North Carolina.

In order for everyone involved to have the right information for this task, I am asking DHHS to release the following:

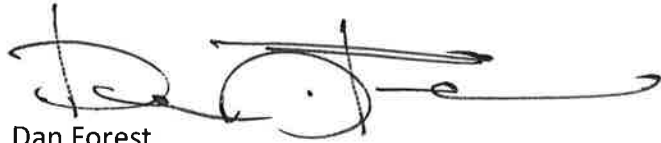
- The age and risk category of those who are or have been hospitalized with COVID-19
- The age and risk category of those who have died from complications from COVID-19
- The number of hospital beds (inpatient and ICU) available by county and hospital
- The number of active cases that must be reached for our statewide hospital system to be overwhelmed
- The number of people diagnosed with COVID-19 who have recovered
- The number of tests completed on individual patients with COVID-19 to determine recovery
- A definition of what "recovered" means

- Demographic data on all people tested for COVID-19
- ZIP codes for all confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Cumulative number of hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and ventilator usage

This data will help both policymakers and the public see more fully the landscape we face as we rebuild our economy. All considerations must be taken into account, including the preservations of life, livelihood, our hospitals and health care workers, and our social safety net. Doing so is impossible without this vital information.

As always, I am happy to discuss this with you via phone, and I appreciate the conversations we have had during this crisis. I hope you will release the data as soon as possible so that detailed planning can begin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Forest', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Forest  
Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina