

# March 2020

**March 10:** The Governor declares COVID-19 a state of emergency.

Following increasing infections across the state of North Carolina, the Governor issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency. Such a declaration empowered the policy making of the state to control the virus.

**March 13:** The White House declares COVID-19 a National Emergency.

Following the Secretary of Health and Human Services's public health emergency declaration, the White House declared the coronavirus pandemic to be a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act. This decision granted greater authority to the Secretary of HHS to combat and control the growing pandemic within the US borders.

**March 17:** The Governor orders the closure of restaurants and bars and removes some unemployment restrictions

In attempting to limit interactions and control the spread, the Governor mandated the closure of bars and restaurants aside from takeout and delivery. Additionally, he lifted some restrictions on unemployment benefits. He allowed for those who saw their hours cut due to the pandemic to apply for relief as well as removed the requirement for those receiving benefits to be actively searching for a job.

**March 20:** The Governor allows North Carolinians to pay state taxes on July 15

Similar to efforts done by the IRS, the Governor extended the deadline to pay state taxes to July 15.

**March 27:** The President signs the CARES Act into law; the Governor announces stay at home order

In response to the growing COVID-19 crisis, the President signed the \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law. The CARES Act provided Americans up to a certain income with payments. In addition, the program included an extended unemployment insurance program, increased loan limits, small business relief, and large corporation relief, among focus areas of aid.

To go into effect on March 30 until April 29, the Governor announced a statewide stay-at-home order to slow the spread. He required gatherings to be no more than 10 people. Essential businesses are allowed to continue operating with social distancing mandated.

**March 28:** Durham announces its Stay-At-Home order.

On March 28, the Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners signed the Stay-At-Home order, to go into effect at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 29. It shares many of the same pieces as the statewide “Stay at Home” issued by the Governor two days prior, including mass gathering limits, social distancing requirements, limitations on activities beyond essential services.

## April 2020

**April 20:** To further slow the spread, Durham County residents were required to wear masks in public spaces.

The Durham Mayor along with county officials made an amendment to the Durham Stay-At-Home order to include a county wide mask mandate. The requirement particularly targets moments in which social distancing is impossible, namely at grocery stores and other public locations.

**April 23:** The Governor extends the Stay-At-Home order through May 8.

In recognition of the continuing and mounting coronavirus crisis, the Governor issued Executive Order No 135, continuing the stay-at-home order through May 8. North Carolina will be allowed to open in three phases as the trajectory of the virus levels and declines.

## MAY 2020

**May 5:** The Governor announces Phase 1 of reopening to begin on May 8.

As of May 8, the Governor allowed North Carolina to transition into Phase 1 of their reopening plan. Under these guidelines, the designation of ‘essential’ and ‘nonessential’ was removed, and retail was able to increase capacity by 50%. Some businesses remained closed, namely salons, theaters, and bars. Gatherings were required to have no more than 10 people.

**May 22:** The Governor announces Phase 2 of reopening plans to begin on May 22.

On May 22, North Carolina transitioned into Phase 2 of the state's reopening plans. The stay-at-home order is officially lifted and replaced with a safer at home plan. Restaurants are allowed a limited reopening, and salons, swimming pools, and tattoo parlors are granted 50% capacity reopening. Gatherings up to 10 indoors and 25 outdoors are allowed.

**May 28:** US COVID-19 death toll reaches 100,000

**May 30:** The Governor issues 3 week moratorium on evictions and a prohibition on utility shut-off for 60 days.

As of May 30, the Governor issues an executive order, establishing a three-week moratorium on evictions for the nonpayment or late payment of rent. He prohibits the accumulation of penalty payments or interest, and he forbids utility shut off for 60 days.

## JUNE 2020

**June 1:** Durham moved to the "Safer-at-Home" Order.

As of June 1, Durham moved into the Safer-at-Home order, a modified version of the statewide Safer-at-Home. It allows for a 10-person group gatherings both indoors and outdoors. Face coverings remain required, and modifications to real estate allowed for showings. Within restaurants and other food location, there is a 6-person limit.

**June 26:** Face masks are required across the state of North Carolina.

The Governor announces executive order requiring masks in public places across the state. He allowed for a few exceptions to the rule including people with medical conditions, children under 11, and people at home, people socially distanced exercising outside. He additionally put a pause on reopening plans to slow the spread.

July 2020

**July 16:** The Governor continued Phase 2 through August 7.

As coronavirus cases continued to rise throughout the state, the Governor decided to put a pause on continued reopening until August 7.

## September 2020

**September 1:** The Governor announces Phase 2.5 to go into effect on Sept. 4.

Phase 2.5 increases gatherings to 25 indoors and 50 outdoors. Museums and aquariums are allowed to open at 50% capacity. Fitness facilities are allowed to open at 30% capacity. Similar capacity limits will be maintained for restaurants and personal care businesses. Bars, clubs, movie theaters, and other entertainment facilities will remain closed.

**September 4:** CDC Eviction Moratorium put into place. Durham slightly alters the Safer-At Home order.

The passage of the temporary CDC eviction moratorium was an attempt to minimize the housing crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation applies to individuals who earn no more than \$99,000 in annual income or no more than \$198,000 for joint tax returns. Additionally, the individual or household must be unable to pay their full rent or make a full housing payment due to a substantial loss of income, loss of work, extreme medical expenses or wages. Applicants are also required to be working government agencies to acquire financial assistance for rent. It was set to expire on December 31, 2020, but was later extended through January 31, 2021.

Durham begins Phase 2.5, making county standards line up with statewide COVID-19 standards. Under these new standards, indoor gatherings increase 25 people and outdoor gatherings increase to 50 people. Museums and aquariums are up at 50% capacity. Exercise facilities are opened at 30% capacity.

## October 2020

**October 18:** North Carolina announces the HOPE Program.

In response to growing concerns about the mass evictions throughout the state, the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency initiated the HOPE (Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions) Program. For renters experiencing housing insecurity or other forms of financial hardship due to the pandemic, the HOPE program provides rental and utility assistance.

**October 28:** The Governor announces eviction moratorium throughout the state

As of October 28, the Governor signed an executive order implementing an eviction moratorium throughout the state for the nonpayment or late payment of rent. It was set to expire on December 31, 2020.

## December 2020

**December 8:** The Governor declares statewide curfew.

The Governor mandates a curfew across North Carolina, maintaining that individuals should stay home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. This executive order included the closure of all businesses at 10 p.m. It remained in effect until Jan. 8.

**December 30:** The Governor extends eviction moratorium

The Governor signs an executive order extending the eviction moratorium for the nonpayment or late payment of rent until January 31, 2021.

## January 2021

**January 19:** US COVID-19 death toll reaches 400,000

**January 27:** The Governor announces modified stay-at-home order and continuation of the eviction moratorium.

As of January 27, the Governor announces a modified stay-at-home order to be in place until February 28, 2021. This order continued the face covering mandate in public spaces and the curfew of 10PM until 5AM. He additionally extended the eviction moratorium until March 31.

**January 31:** The Whitehouse extends the eviction moratorium through March.

The President extended the eviction moratorium, set to expire at the end of January, through March. It applies to renters who file a declaration with a landlord, meeting criteria such as the inability to pay rent due to economic loss from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## February 2021

**February 25:** The Governor announces rollbacks on restrictions for businesses.

As of February 25, the Governor eases restrictions on businesses for both capacity limits and curfews. Some indoor businesses, such as bars, indoor amusement parks, and movie theaters, cannot exceed 30% capacity or 250 persons (whichever is less). Other indoor businesses, like restaurants, have an increased capacity of 50%. Non-essential businesses can stay open later than the 9 p.m. curfew. Bars remain subject to an 11 p.m. curfew.

## March 2021

**March 1:** North Carolina receives the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

After statewide trials and approval, North Carolina received 80,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

**March 13:** Duke University on lock-down after increased cases.

After experiencing massive COVID case increases following in-person fraternity rush events, Duke University went on a week-long lock-down from midnight March 14 to 9 a.m. on March 21. Aside for essential activities, on-campus students were expected to remain in dormitories.

**March 23:** The Governor announces eased restrictions to go into effect on March 26.

The Governor signs executive order rolling back COVID restrictions. Some businesses, like retail and personal care shops, are allowed to operate at 100% capacity. Restaurants, amusement parks, gyms, pools, among others, are restricted to 75% capacity. Businesses including bars can open at 50% capacity.

**March 30:** The Governor signs Executive Order 206.

This order extends the state eviction moratorium (for instances of unpaid rent) through June 30, 2021.

## April 2021

**April 7:** Beginning April 7, the COVID vaccine becomes available to all adults in North Carolina.