

From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Town Email Users
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly COVID Update 11-13-20
Attachments: [Vacation Rollover Extension \(new date - July 2021\)](#),
[What's Next? A Virtual COVID Town Hall with Drs. Goldstein and Barzin](#)

Hello Everyone,

The recent spike in positive COVID cases here in North Carolina and around the country has been staggering and of great concern. Despite the best efforts of many, the positive test results are beginning to surpass the numbers we experienced during the early heights of the pandemic. And we cooler weather and the holidays on the way, there is legitimate reason to be anxious about the months ahead.

Here is a look at recent data:

- NC daily case count eclipsed 3,000 for the first time on Wednesday of this week
- NC percent-positive rate above 7.5% (Sec. Mandy Cohen says she's much more comfortable when that's down around 5%)
- US: only three days this month have had fewer than 100,000 new daily cases (Thursday eclipsed 150,000)

Unfortunately, the trends we are seeing statewide and nationally have been reflected in an increase in positive cases amongst Town staff. In the first seven months of this pandemic, only six Town of Chapel Hill staff tested positive for coronavirus. We received word of four positive cases this week alone.

Here's the good news—that's still low. Our Town staff has done an excellent job of protecting themselves and their colleagues during this pandemic. And, I'm happy to report that, so far, no Town staff have reported experiencing the worst of the symptoms associated with the virus. Statistically, only 10 positive cases out of 740+ employees is pretty impressive. But we do not want any of our employees to endure this terrible virus, so we need to continue our efforts to limit the overall spread.

Public health professionals are attributing the recent surge to indoor gatherings. That's one reason Governor Cooper announced this week that the statewide indoor gathering limit would be decreased to 10 people beginning today at 5 p.m. (the outdoor gathering limit remains at 50).

The CDC, State, and Orange County Health Department have issued the following holiday gathering guidance that I strongly urge you to read and adhere to in the interest of safety for everyone.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

NC DHHS: <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Thanksgiving.pdf>

OC Health Department: <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/Home/Components/News/News/16726>

What's Next? COVID-19 Town Hall

Do you have questions about COVID-19? Sign up by Tuesday, November 17th, to join a virtual Town Hall with Dr. Adam Goldstein and Dr. Amir Barzin. Some topics that will be discussed include: How should I plan for the holidays? How can I keep myself and my family safe through the winter?

I've attached an email from the Wellness@Work Committee with more information.

Vacation Rollover Extension

We understand that some staff have been limiting travel due to COVID-19, and we appreciate those decisions you've made. With that in mind, we're pushing the vacation rollover date one final time to July 2021. Please see the attached email for further details.

Resources

- Submit employee questions and concerns to the Office of Risk Management at 919-969-5035, rallen@townofchapelhill.org
- Contact the Town's Wellness Clinic: 919-968-2796, <https://chapelhillwellnessatwork.org/>
 - Please call first
 - Please note: the Town's Wellness Clinic does not have the capability to test for coronavirus; the staff can recommend whether you should seek additional medical guidance
- Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plan provides video diagnosis options. Visit <https://member.carefirst.com/members/health-wellness/video-visit.page>.
- Contact the Ombuds at ombuds@townofchapelhill.org or 919-265-0806
- If you need to talk with someone about personal problems and/or work-related problems that may impact your job performance, health, mental and emotional well-being, call 1-800-326-3864 or visit bhsonline.com.



Thank you for your continued efforts to provide excellent service to our residents and visitors of Chapel Hill. Be safe out there!

All the Best,
Maurice

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