

**From:** Maurice Jones  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2021 9:11 AM  
**To:** Town Email Users  
**Subject:** Town Manager Update 1-15-21

Hello Everyone,

First and foremost thank you for your service during yet another eventful week. While headlines were full of national events, I want to focus on the rapidly escalating COVID-19 positive tests and the decreasing hospital capacity here in our own backyard. The positivity rate in Orange County has been steadily increasing in recent weeks and spiked above 10% this week and hospitals around the state are reaching their maximum capacity. In light of these alarming trends I ask you to limit your exposure in any way you can. We can all do our part to stop the spread if we continue to stay home when possible and check our symptoms and temperature before reporting to work.

### **Vaccination Information**

Last week Orange County joined the state in phase 1B of the prioritization for vaccination. This phase allowed anyone 75 years of age and older to register for the vaccine. At a press conference yesterday the Governor announced that the age limit for phase 1B will now be anyone 65 years of age and older. UNC Hospitals and the Orange County Health Department are managing vaccinations in Orange County. Due to call volume eligible applicants are asked to utilize the websites as much as possible.

- Orange County: [Vaccine Interest Form](#) and 919-913-8088
- UNC: [yourshot.org](http://yourshot.org) and 984-215-5495

### **Safety**

News outlets are reporting that there is danger of further attacks on Washington, D.C. during the Presidential Inauguration event on January 20. While Chapel Hill is far removed from this event, our Police Department is working with our partners to develop safety contingency plans in case there is local activity. I don't take for granted the effort it takes to continually manage these unprecedented events. Thank you to our public safety personnel who continue to rise to the occasion to meet the needs of our community.

And as a reminder to all of us - living through this civil unrest and violence can be damaging to our general sense of safety. Stress can have physical and emotional impacts. Please take advantage of the resources we offer at the bottom of this email and do not hesitate to let me know if there is more you need for support.

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

Today is the Town's celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As I noted in the Special Issue of TOWNTalk, his commitment to forgiveness and love is just as important as his courage and leadership against injustice. His non-violent example is as relevant today as it was then. I hope you will join us today at 11am for a virtual celebration of his legacy and take a moment to reflect on the TOWNTalk I attached to this email.. Tune in to the 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr., Employee Celebration at [www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org), [youtube.com/c/chapelhillgov](https://youtube.com/c/chapelhillgov), or [facebook.com/chapelhillgov](https://facebook.com/chapelhillgov)

## Resources

- Submit employee questions and concerns to the Office of Risk Management at 919-969-5035, [rallen@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:rallen@townofchapelhill.org)
- Contact the Town's Wellness Clinic: 919-968-2796, <https://chapelhillwellnessatwork.org/>. Please call first. Please note that 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](mailto: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](http://bhsonline.com).

Keep up your exceptional work and please be safe.

All the Best,  
Maurice

Maurice Jones  
Town Manager  
Town of Chapel Hill, NC  
(919) 968-2743  
[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)