

From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Town Email Users
Subject: Manager's Weekly COVID Email 3-05-21

Hello Everyone,

It is hard to believe that we are coming up on the one-year mark of our response to COVID-19. I'm sure many of you have read a lot of headlines about this anniversary, as North Carolina saw its first documented case in early March.

Thankfully, now a year later, we have received uplifting news this week with the rollout of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Additionally new partnerships at the federal level are said to be increasing the number of vaccine doses. We've been told that production levels should allow enough vaccines for every adult by the end of May. That is a much quicker timeline than we heard just weeks ago.

It feels like we are heading in the right direction but we should remember to remain vigilant until we achieve herd immunity. Practice the three Ws, and stay safe!

Ask the Manager

Our first question in this new feature comes from Sharon from Chapel Hill Public Library. She asks: "Can you give us any guidance as to which employees fit under the Group 3 'government and community services' umbrella?"

A very good, timely question. Thank you, Sharon.

Group 3 is made up of "frontline essential workers" such as teachers, grocery workers, restaurant workers, postal employees, police officers, firefighters, and bus drivers, and perform an essential task that is **public facing** or **have close contact with other people and have to leave home to work**.

Anyone outside of your household germ bubble counts as "**other people.**" And indoors always raises the risk of transmission.

If you work in one of the groups below and your employer requires you to work in person (not remotely) and you have close contact with other people, you are a frontline essential worker. Close contact is defined as being closer than six feet for longer than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

Education	Public Safety	Food Service	Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare centers • K-12 schools • Universities and Colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighters • Police officers • Corrections • Security officers • Public agencies that respond to abuse and neglect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grocery stores • Restaurants • Farms • Meat packing plants • Food processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transit • DMV • Transportation repair and maintenance • Highway workers
Government and Community Services	Essential Goods	Manufacturing	Public Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court workers • U.S. Postal • Elected official • Clergy • Homeless shelter • Veterinarian work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers in stores that sell groceries and medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical supplies, equipment or PPE • Products needed for agriculture and food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health workers • Social workers

Next week we'll answer the question: "is there anything else going on beside COVID in town?" Spoiler alert —yes!

Send your questions to pio@townofchapelhill.org. You may remain anonymous if you would like. We ask that you stick to questions that would benefit multiple staff members and that are relevant to the pandemic. There are also opportunities listed in the resources section below to get your questions answered. I look forward to hearing more about what's on your mind and the topics that are most important to you.

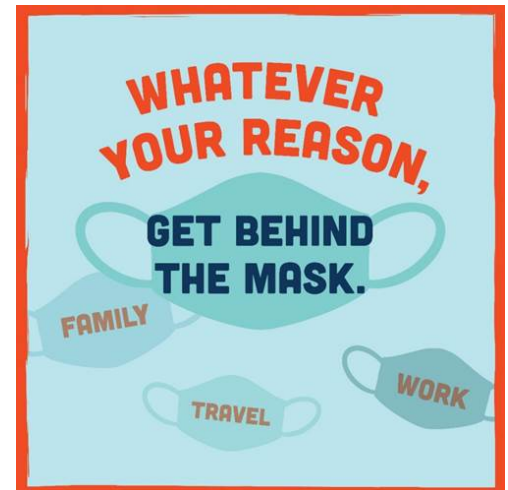
New State Executive Order

Governor Roy Cooper announced last week the signing of Executive Order No. 195, effective Feb. 26. This order loosened some restrictions, including lifting the modified stay-at-home order (meaning no more curfew), raising the indoor gathering limit to 25 people (still masked and physically distant), and increasing capacity for some businesses. You can find more about these changes at townofchapelhill.org/coronavirus.

Remember, the coronavirus is still active and highly contagious. We must be vigilant and strictly follow the three Ws until many more people are fully vaccinated and we reach herd immunity. Thank you for your patience and hard work in this effort.

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.



Thanks for all that you do!

All the Best,
Maurice

Maurice Jones
Town Manager
Town of Chapel Hill, NC
(919) 968-2743
www.townofchapelhill.org