

# NC DHHS COVID-19 Update: Testing, Guidance and Resources

**DHHS Leadership**  
**6/15/20**

## **RCC (Relay Conference Captioning)**

Participants can access real-time captioning for this webinar here:

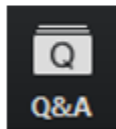
<https://www.captionedtext.com/client/event.aspx?EventID=4474778&CustomerID=324>

# Topics of Discussion

- **Welcome...Secretary Mandy Cohen**
- **Epidemiology and Statistics...Dr. Zack Moore**
- **Testing Methodology Updates... Dr. Scott Shone**
- **Testing Principles(Guidance)...Drs. Betsey Tilson & Shannon Dowler**
- **Symptom Tracker & Find my Testing Site...Dr. Cardra Burns**
- **RFQ, High Throughput, and Paying for Testing...Jay Ludlam, JD**
- **Resources...Dr. Betsey Tilson**
- **Questions and Answer...ALL**

# Logistics for today's COVID-19 Forum

**Question during the live webinar**



[questionsCOVID19webinar@gmail.com](mailto:questionsCOVID19webinar@gmail.com)

**Technical assistance**

[technicalassistanceCOVID19@gmail.com](mailto:technicalassistanceCOVID19@gmail.com)

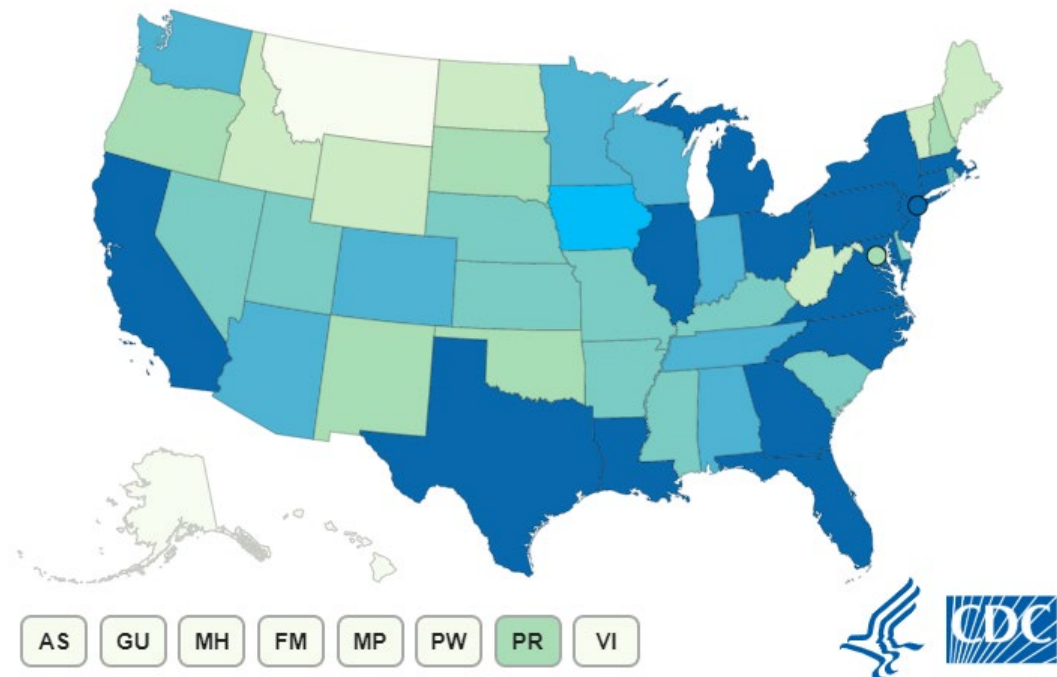


**Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH**  
**Secretary**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**

**June 15, 2020**

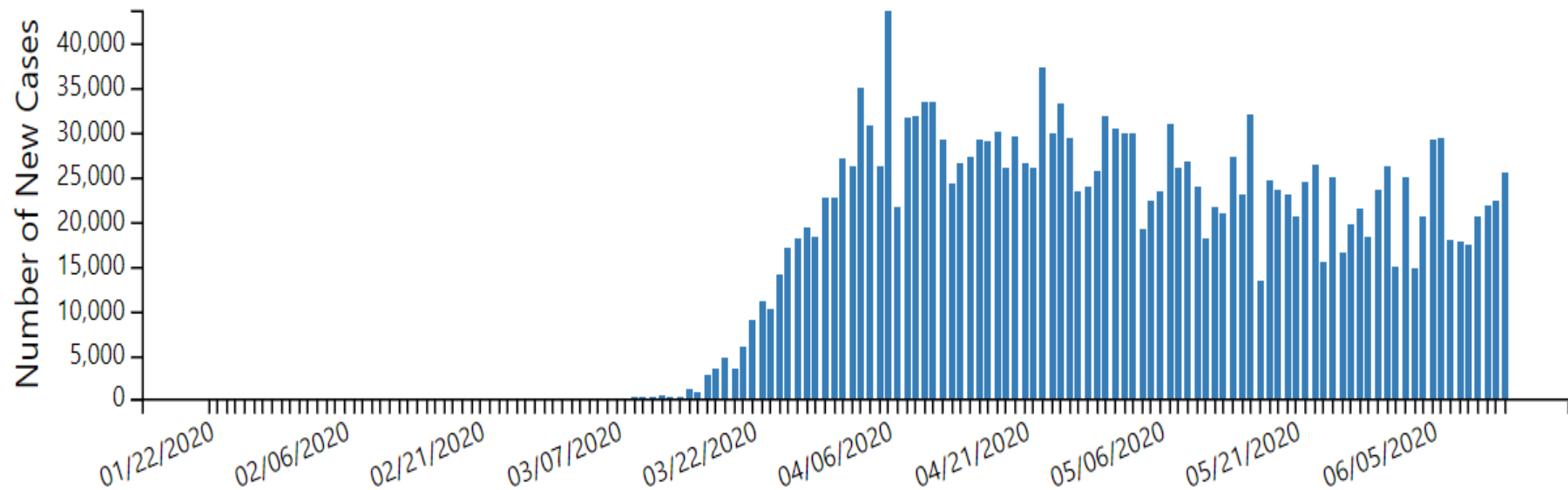
# COVID-19: National and State Surveillance

June 15, 2020

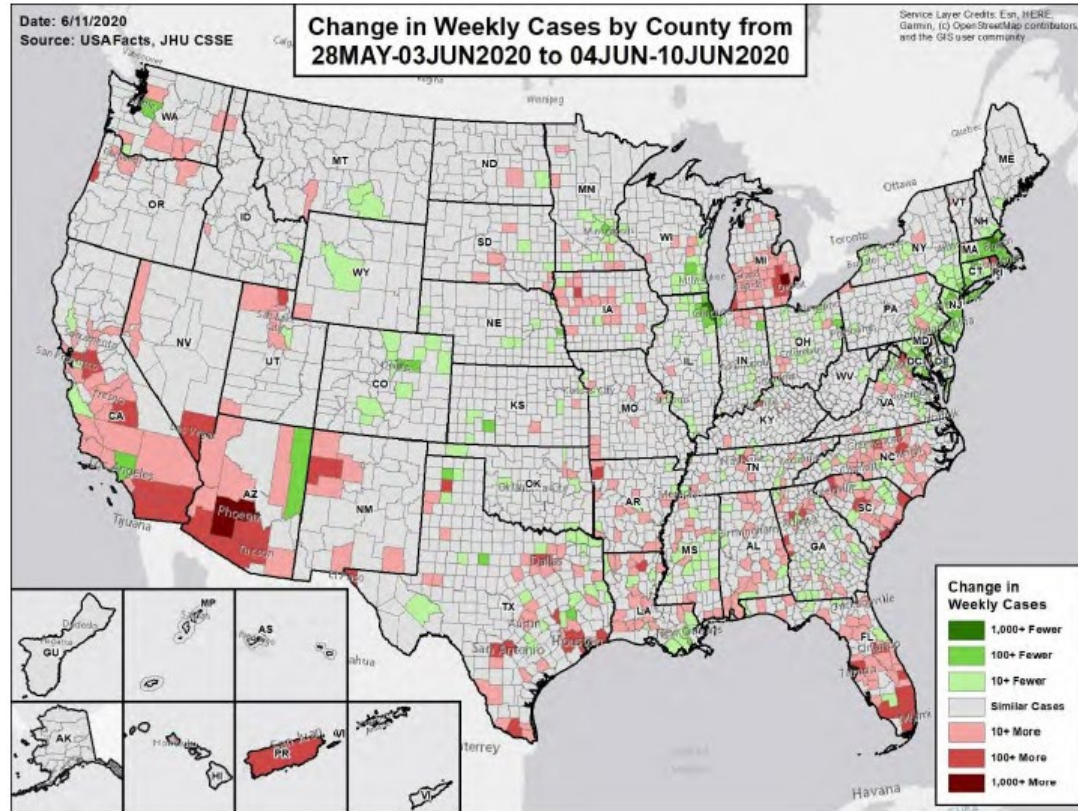


NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

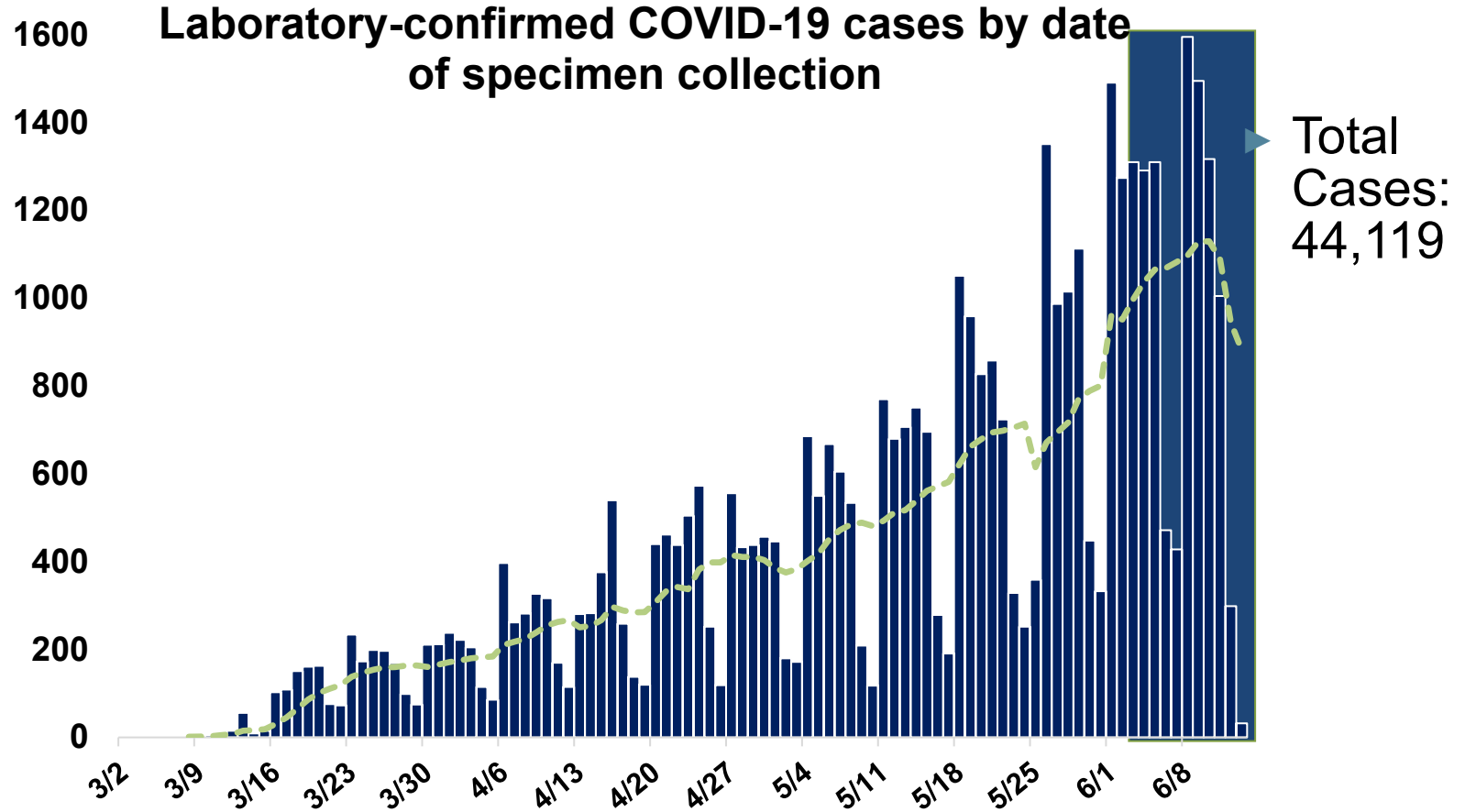
# U.S. Cases since Outbreak Began



# Increasing Cases in Multiple Regions

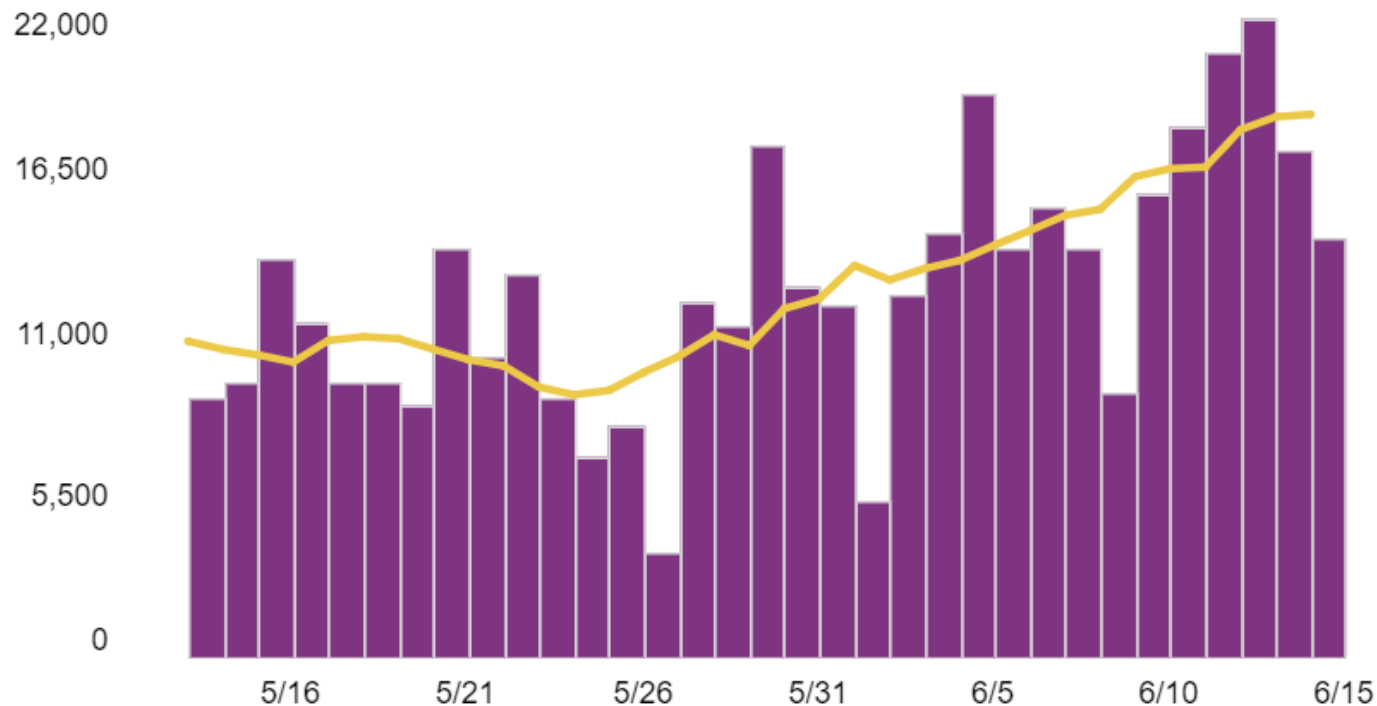


# N.C. Confirmed Cases by Specimen Date



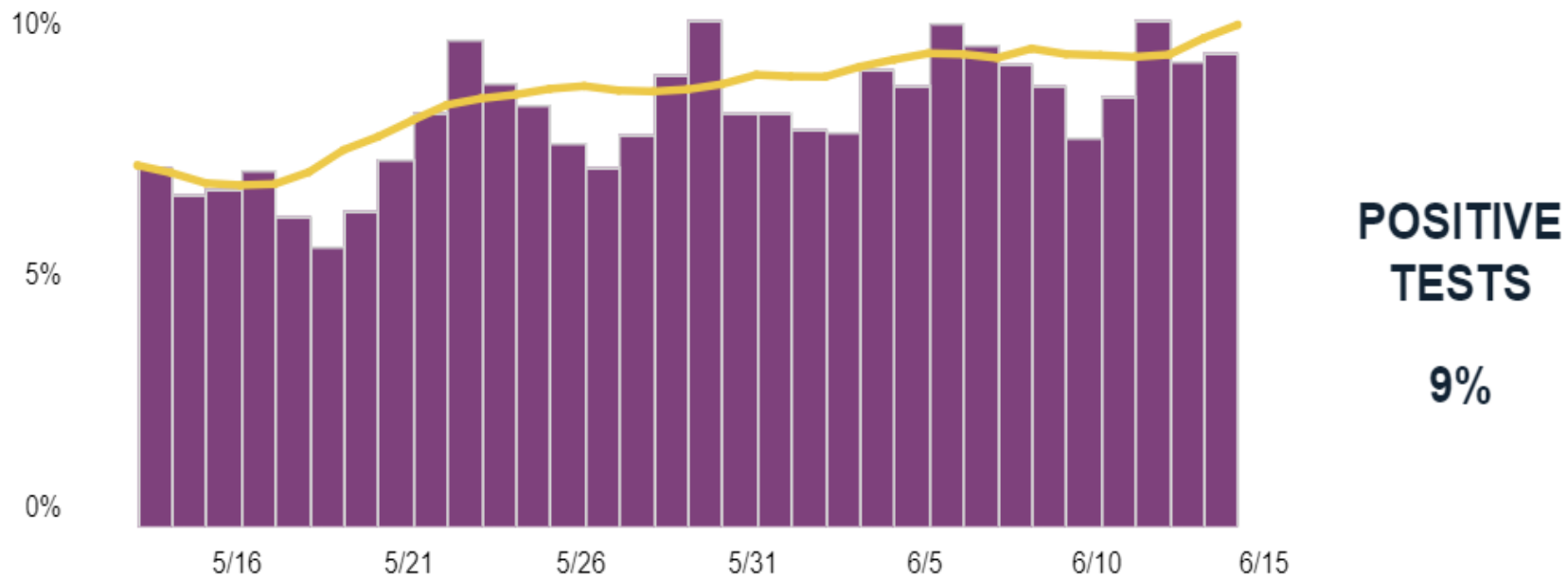


# Total Tests Reported

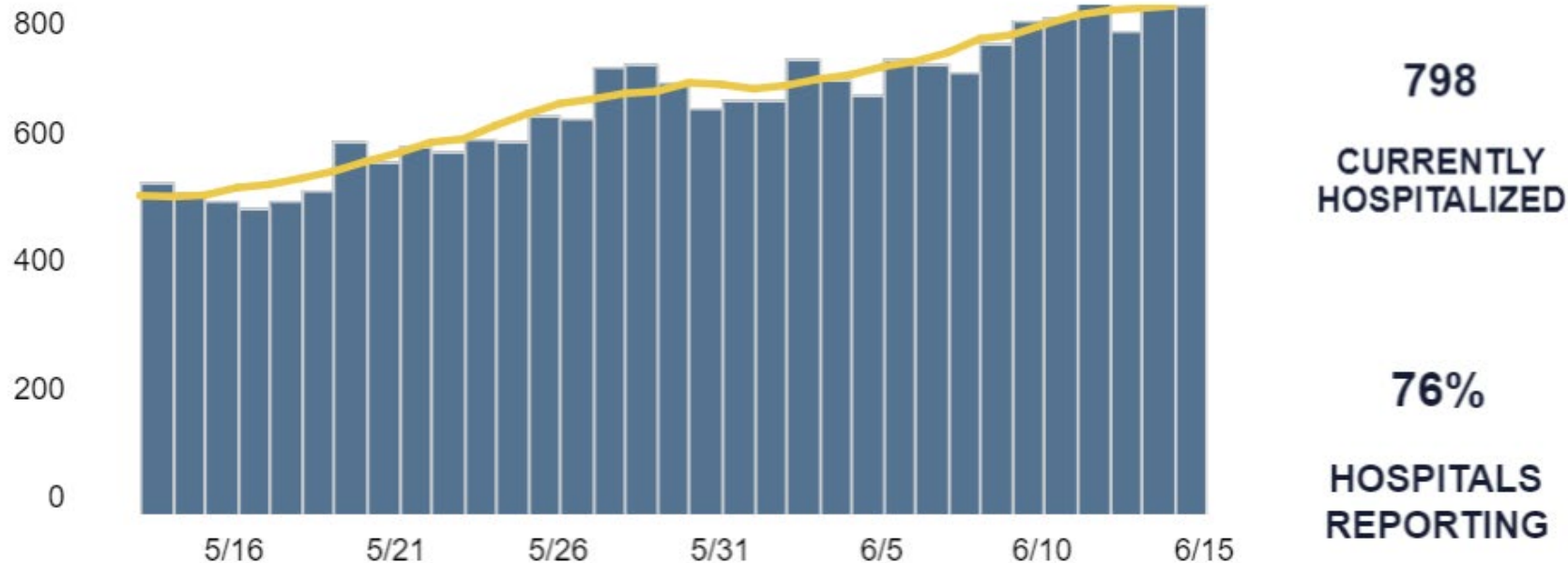


**TOTAL  
TESTS  
627,130**

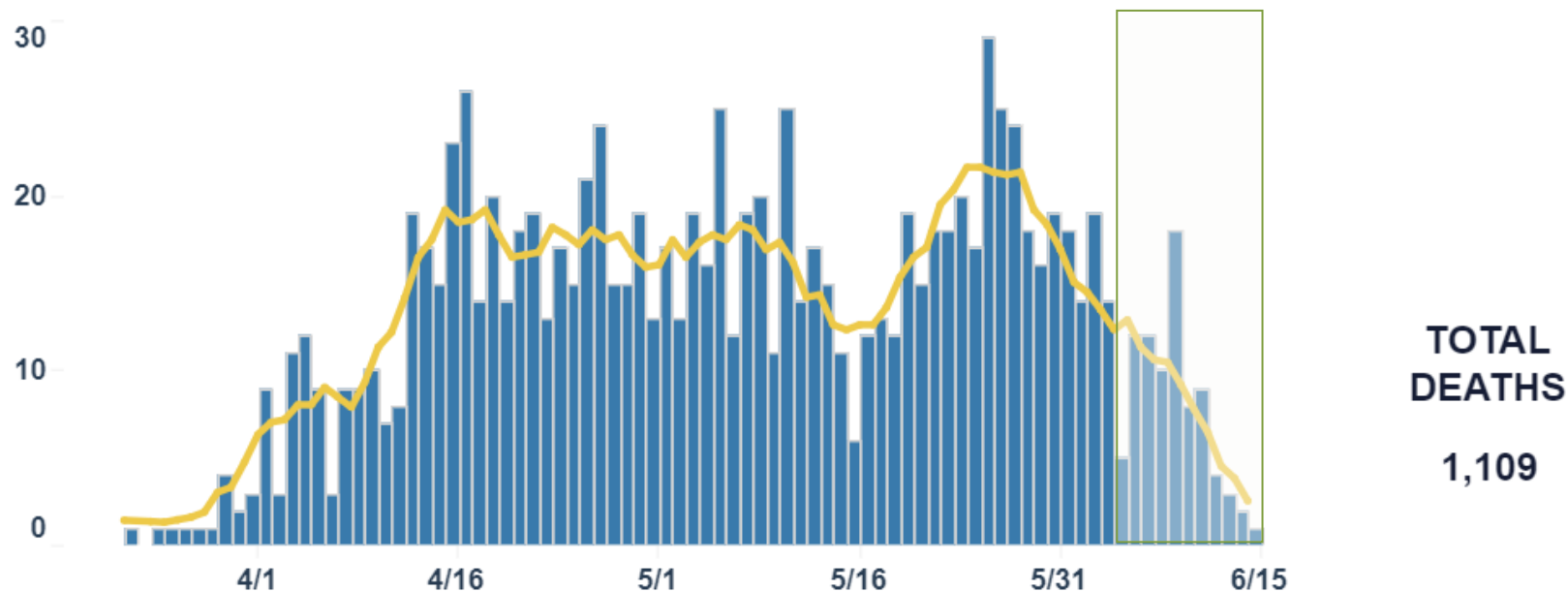
# Positive Tests as a Percentage of Total Tests



# N.C. Daily Number Hospitalized

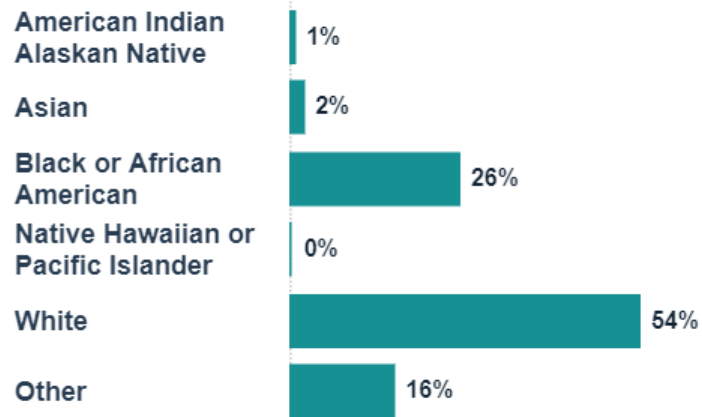


# N.C. Confirmed COVID Deaths by Date of Death

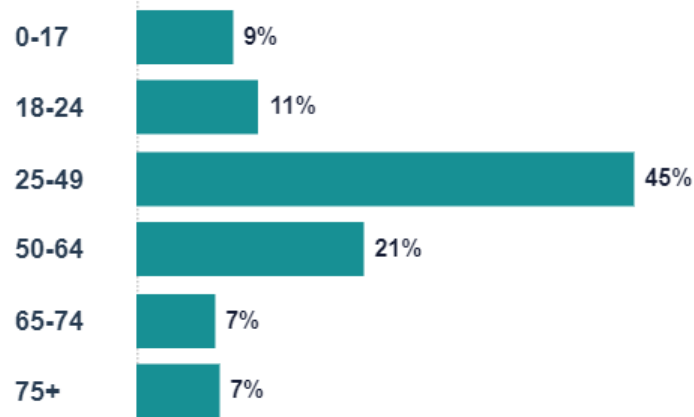


# N.C. Confirmed Cases – Demographics

## By Race



## By Age



## By Ethnicity



## By Gender



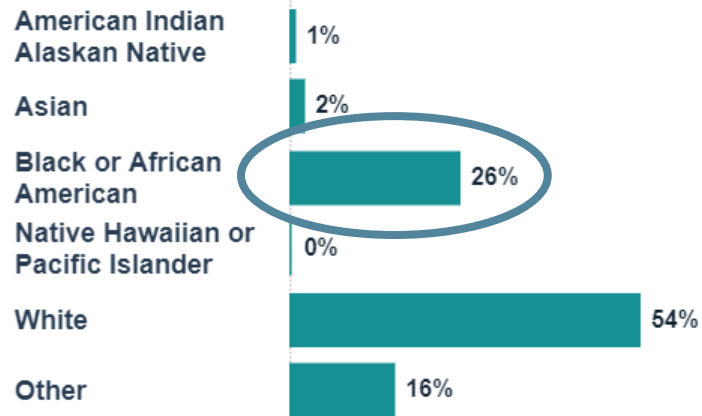
## Missing Demographic Data

Race	13,638
Ethnicity	14,695
Age	8
Gender	518

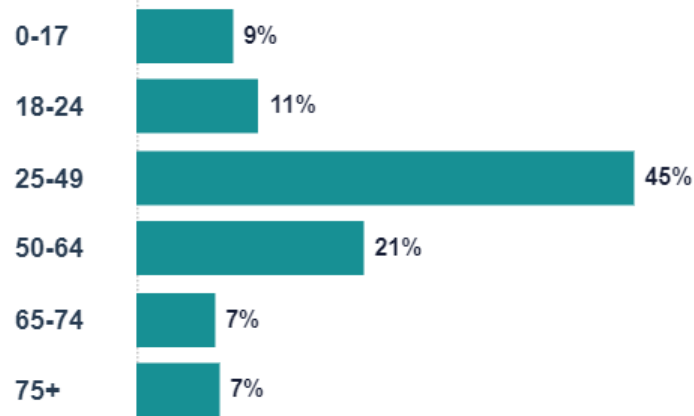
June 14, 2020

# N.C. Confirmed Cases – Demographics

## By Race



## By Age



## By Ethnicity



## By Gender

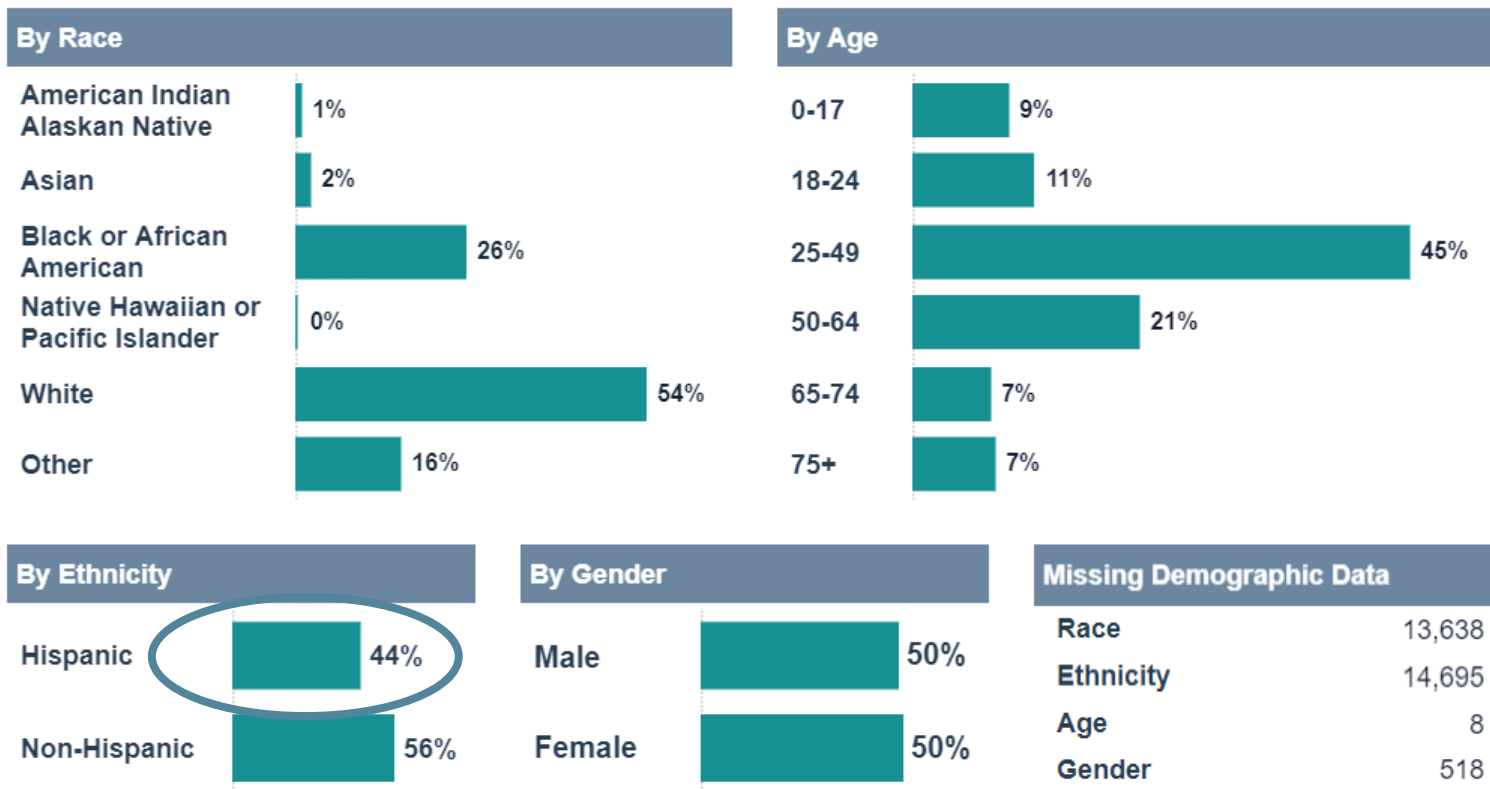


## Missing Demographic Data

Race	13,638
Ethnicity	14,695
Age	8
Gender	518

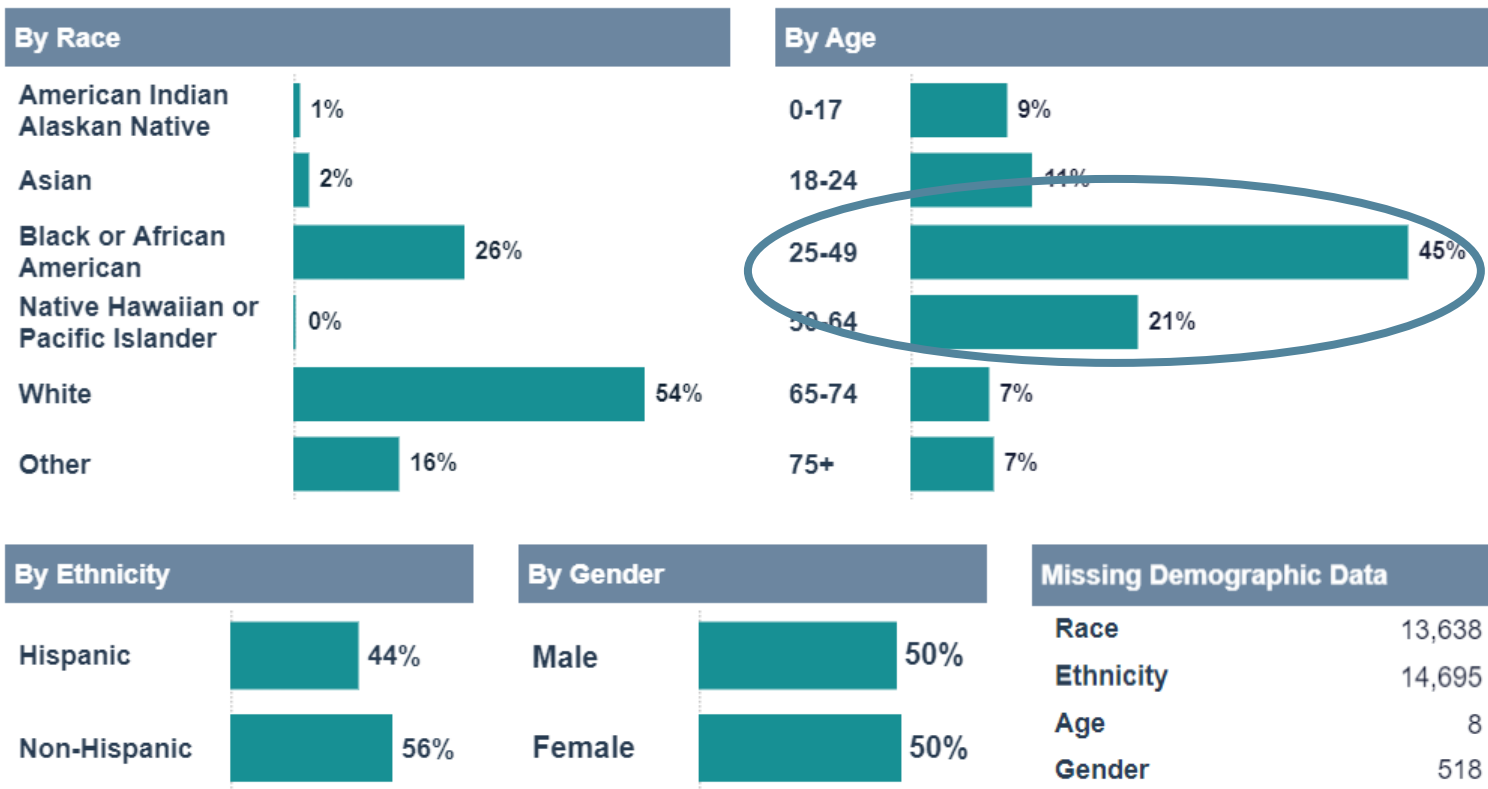
June 14, 2020

# N.C. Confirmed Cases – Demographics



June 14, 2020

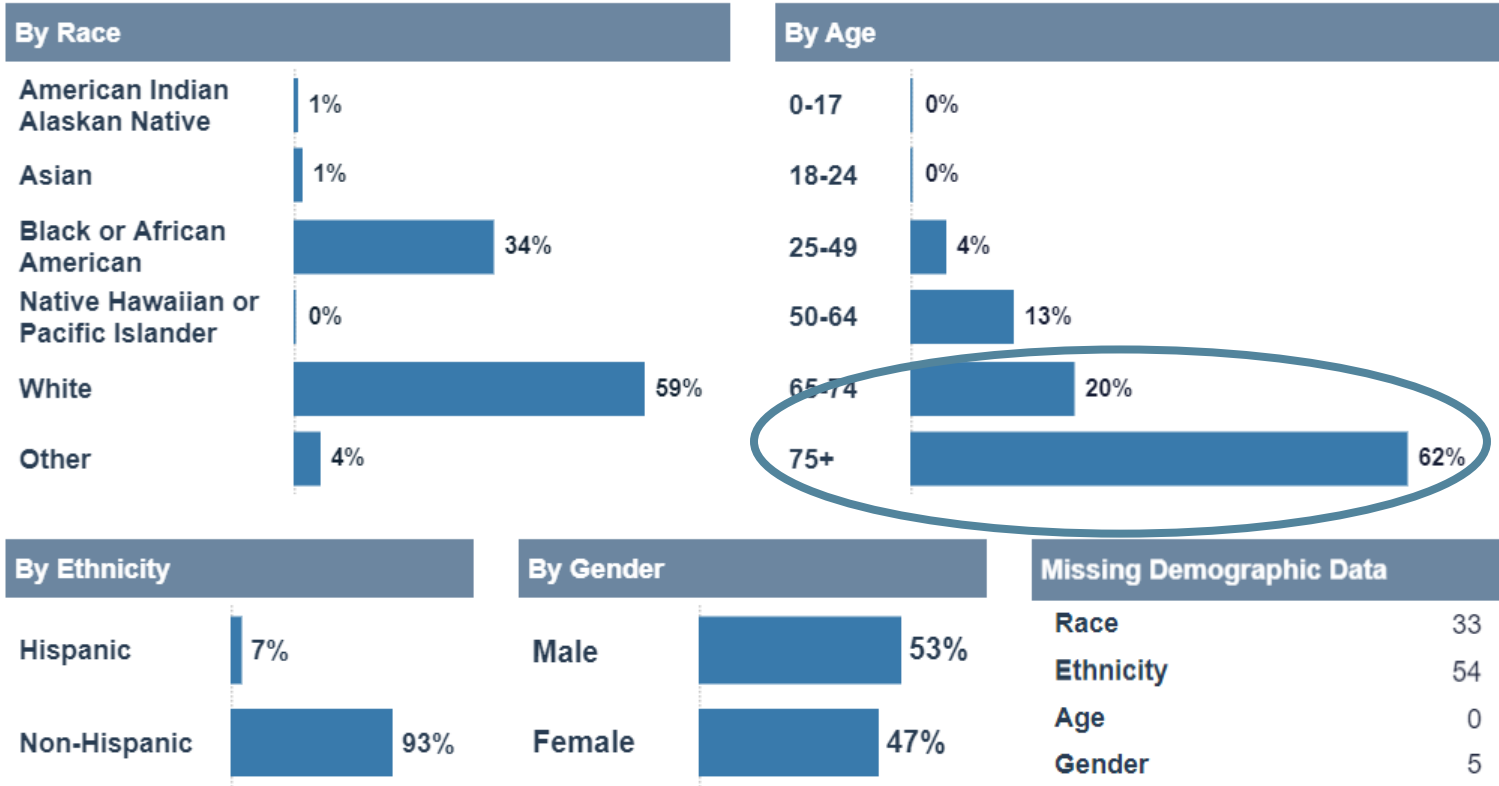
# N.C. Confirmed Cases – Demographics



June 14, 2020



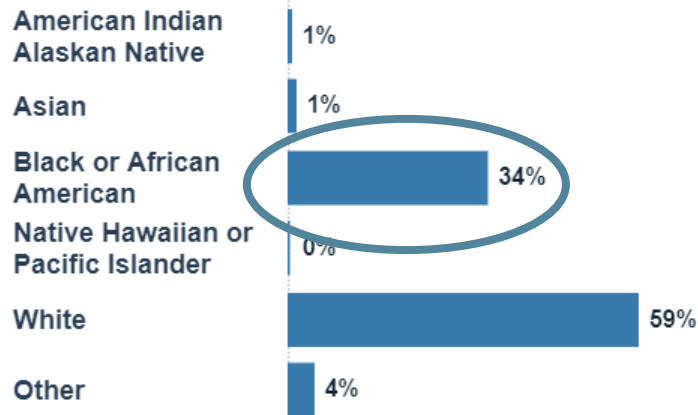
# N.C. COVID-19 Deaths – Demographics



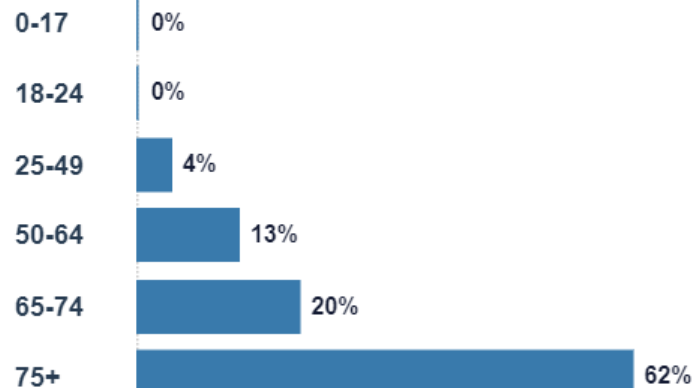
June 14, 2020

# N.C. COVID-19 Deaths – Demographics

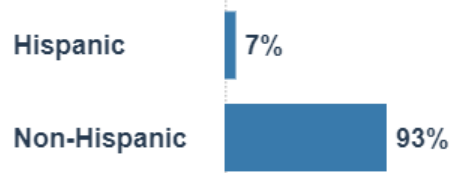
## By Race



## By Age



## By Ethnicity



## By Gender

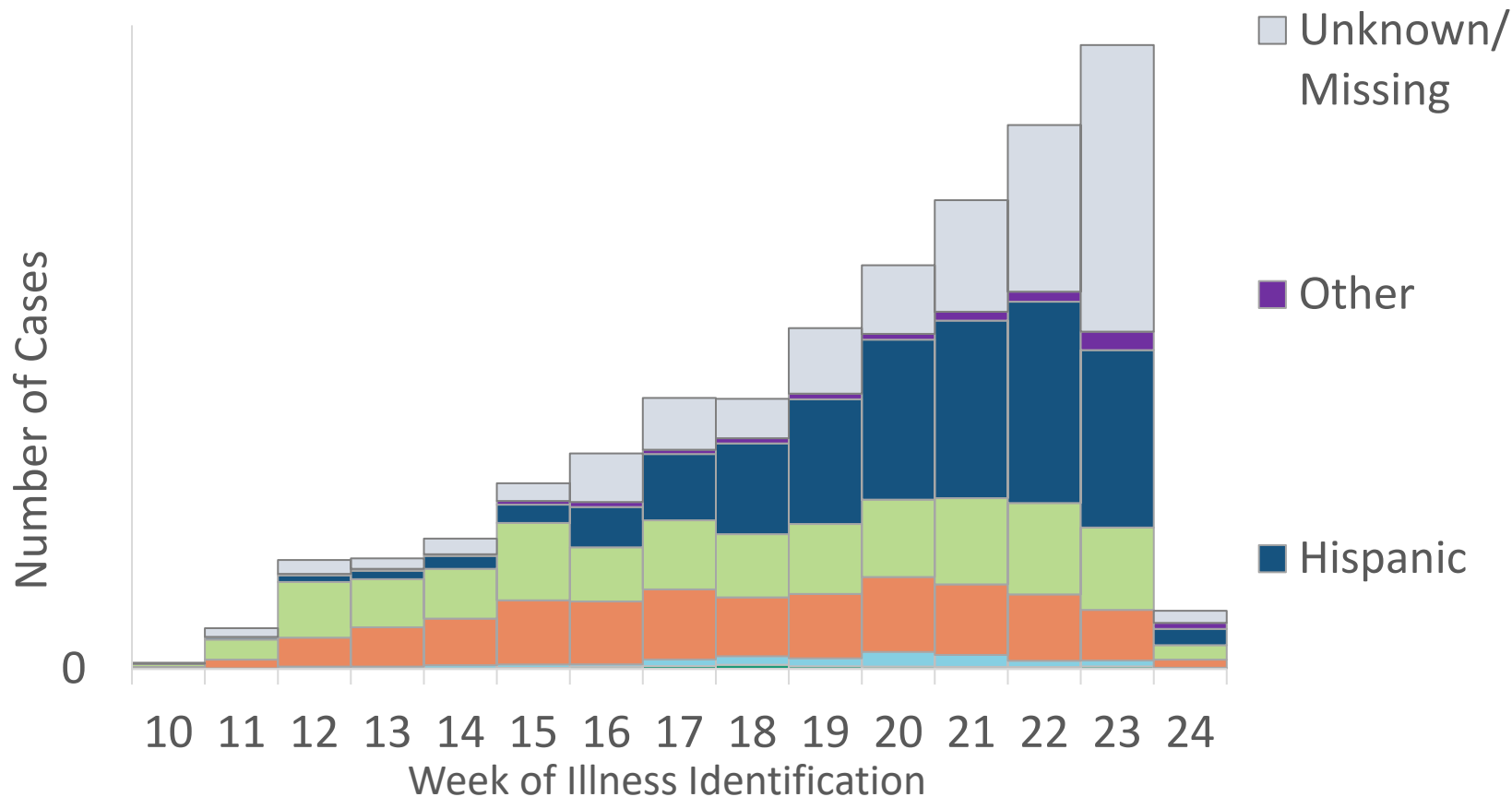


## Missing Demographic Data

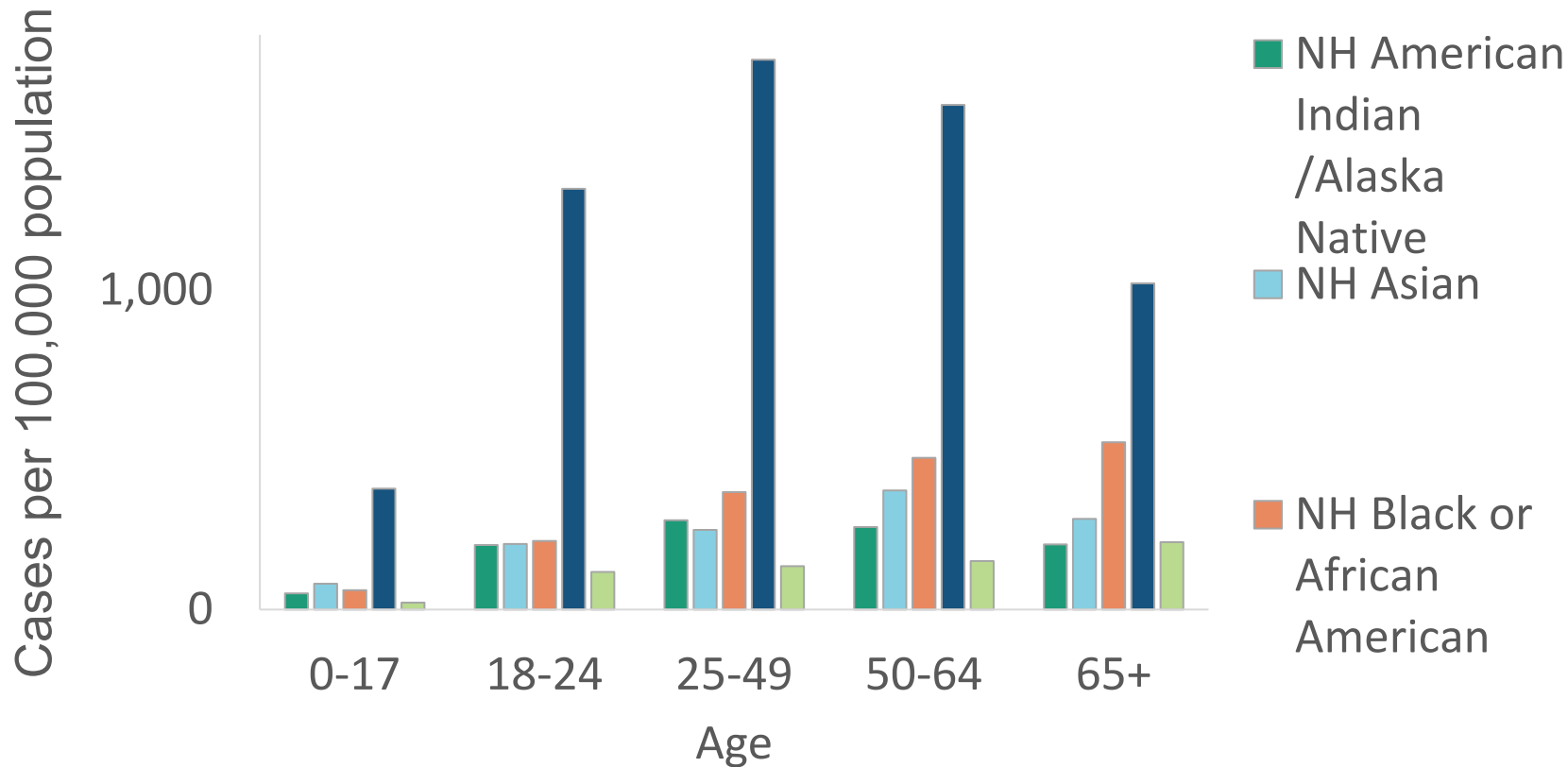
Race	33
Ethnicity	54
Age	0
Gender	5

June 14, 2020

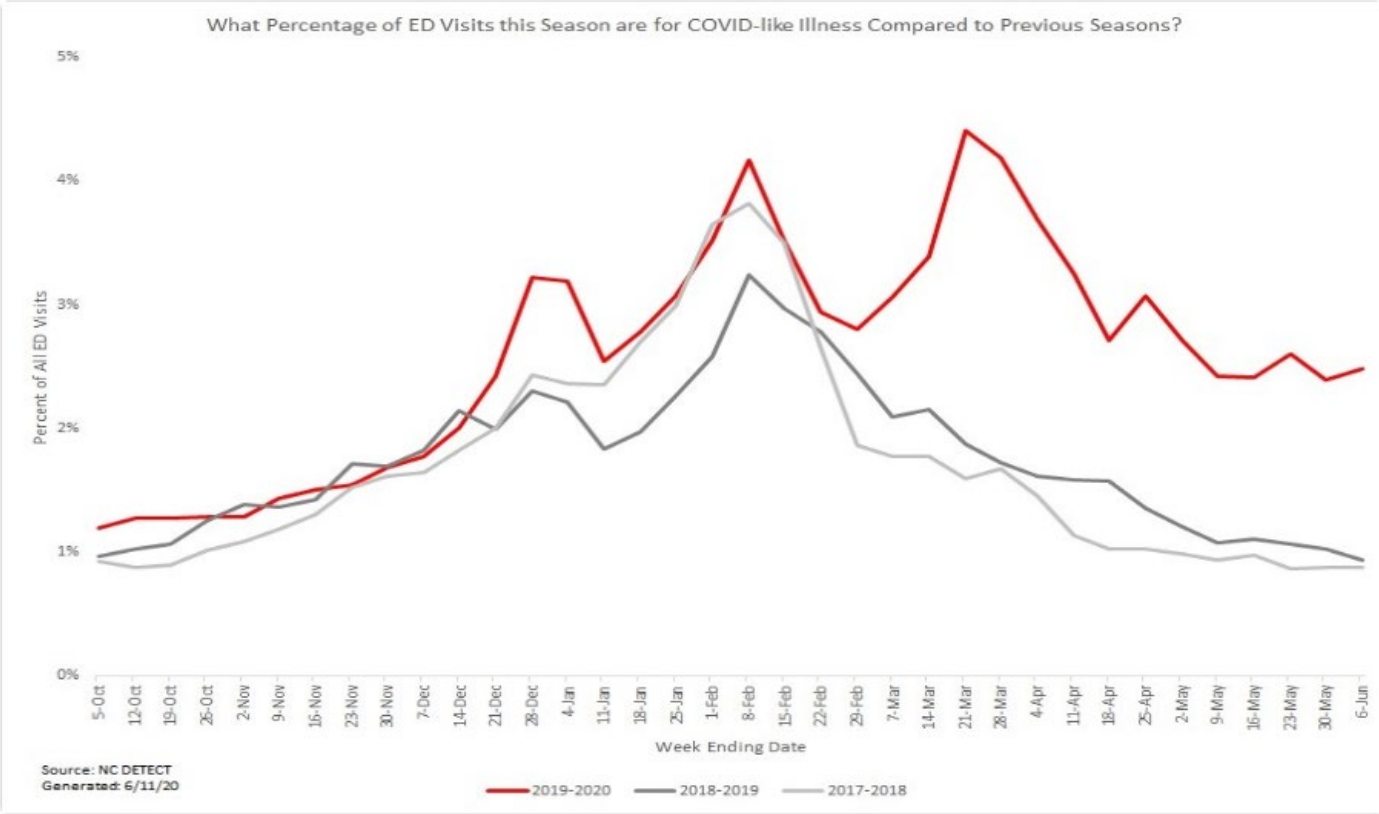
# N.C. Confirmed Case by Race and Ethnicity



# N.C. Confirmed Case by Race and Ethnicity



# COVID-Like Illness (CLI) in N.C.



# COVID-19: Testing Methodology Updates

June 15, 2020



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**



# Types of Tests



- ☐ Shows active infection
- ☐ Two types of diagnostic tests
  - ☐ **molecular (RT-PCR)** tests that detect the virus's genetic material
  - ☐ **antigen** tests that detect specific proteins on the surface of the virus



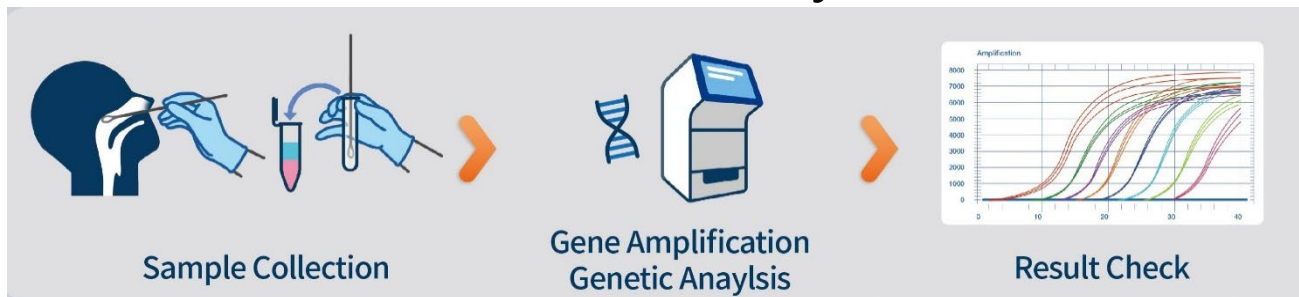
- ☐ Looks for antibodies made during immune response
- ☐ Antibodies can take several days or weeks to develop after infection
- ☐ Antibody tests should not be used to diagnose an active coronavirus infection
- ☐ Unknown how antibodies correlate to immunity



# Diagnostic Tests

Molecular

## Laboratory



► Sensitive ► Specific ► Several hours ► High throughput

## POC/Near-Patient



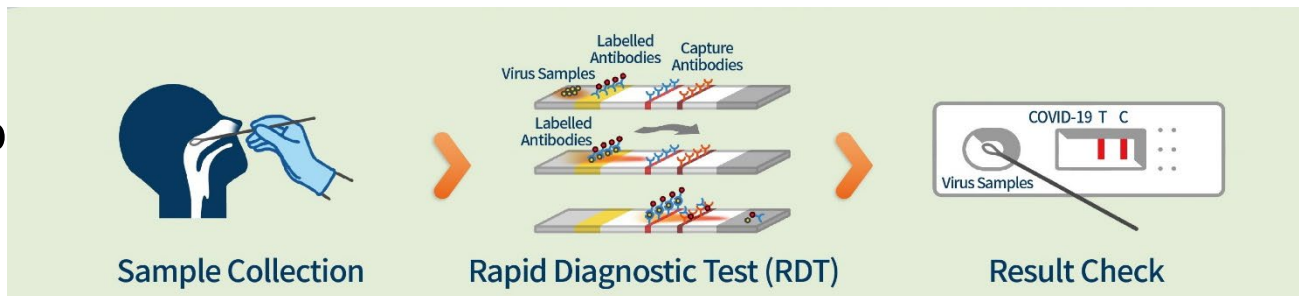
Less Sensitive  
Specific  
<1 hour



Low throughput

Antigen

## POC/Near-Patient



► Less Sensitive  
► Specific  
► Minutes  
► Low throughput



NCDHHS | COVID-19: Testing Update June 15, 2020

[illegible]

# Diagnostic Tests

## POC/Near-Patient

Molecular

Antigen

Check Instructions for Use for Limitations:

Negative results should be treated as presumptive and, if inconsistent with clinical signs and symptoms or necessary for infection control or patient management, should be tested with different authorized or cleared molecular tests.

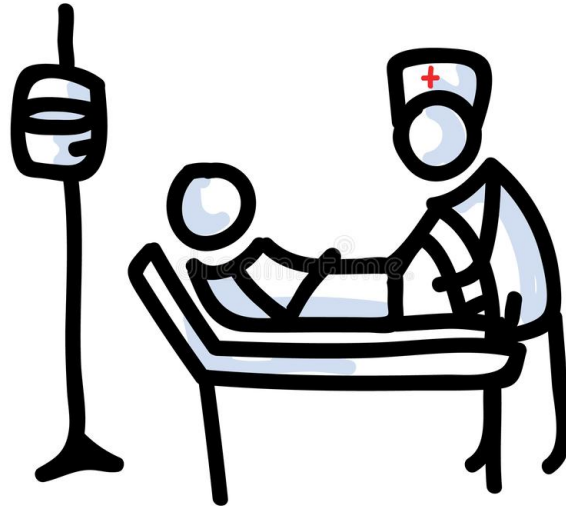
## Who Gets a Test?



## **Clinicians should conduct or arrange for diagnostic COVID-19 testing for:**

- Anyone with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
- Close contacts of known positive cases, regardless of symptoms
- The following groups are some of the populations with higher risk of exposure or a higher risk of severe disease if they become infected. People in these groups should get tested, if they believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19, whether or not they have symptoms.
  - People who live in or have regular contact with high-risk settings (e.g., long-term care facility, homeless shelter, correctional facility, migrant farmworker camp)
  - Historically Marginalized populations who may be at higher risk for exposure
  - Frontline and essential workers (grocery store clerks, gas station attendants, child care workers, construction sites, processing plants, etc.) in settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain
  - Health care workers or first responders (e.g. EMS, law enforcement, fire department, military)
  - People who are at high risk of severe illness (e.g., people over 65 years of age, people of any age with underlying health conditions)
- People who have attended protests, rallies, or other mass gatherings could have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or could have exposed others.
  - Testing should be considered for people who attended such events, particularly if they were in crowds or other situations where they couldn't practice effective social distancing.

**Linda is a 55 year old home health aide with diabetes and hypertension. She has been working full time and is worried about being exposed to COVID. She sends a message to her PCP about whether she can get a test. What is the best answer?**



**Tameika is a 23 year old healthy server at Waffle House and she has been working overtime since the restaurant opened to dine in customers. She wears a cloth mask at work. She lives with her parents and her dad is currently in chemotherapy for colon cancer. Should she get tested?**



**Raul is a 29 year old otherwise healthy construction worker who feels fine. He does not have health insurance. His income supports his family of 5. Several people on the job site have been out sick and his wife wants him to get a test but his boss has said not to worry. What are Raul's best options?**



**John is a 19 year old with a past medical history of mild intermittent asthma and seasonal allergies who has three days of mild cough, fatigue and decreased appetite. He attended several protests over the prior weekend but wore his mask faithfully. His mom told him to get a COVID test but his PCP's office said since his symptoms were mild he didn't need to. What would you say?**





**Angelica is a 26 year old Spanish speaking pregnant farmworker who recently arrived in NC from FL where she travelled in a large van for two days. She feels fine today and is not sure where she will go for pregnancy care in NC. What would you advise her to do for testing?**



**Betty Anne is a 74 year old active member of her local church choir. They have been having church with the windows open and people sitting away from each other. She only rarely goes out for grocery shopping and church and volunteers at the local library reading program. Should she get tested?**



# What is the Check My Symptoms Tool?

Individuals may use the Check My Symptoms Portal to input key information related to need for testing (i.e., healthcare worker status, chronic diseases, COVID-19 symptoms, age, etc.).\*

[Check My Symptoms landing page](#)



The "Check My Symptoms" tool helps you check your symptoms online and determine if you will be recommended to be tested for COVID-19. After you enter your symptoms, it is recommended that you get tested, you will receive a list of nearby testing sites via email or text.

**Terms and Conditions**

By clicking the link above, you agree to the following terms and conditions: you are at least 18 years old; you are not seeking immediate medical attention; you will seek medical attention if you are experiencing any of the symptoms you are providing; you are providing information required for the Check My Symptoms Questionnaire, corresponding testing, or contact tracing; you are providing information that will be kept confidential in accordance with applicable laws.


**NCDHHS**
[Select Language](#)
[Powered by Web Experience](#)
[Home](#) | [Sign In](#)

Your answers to these questions will be used to determine if you will be recommended to be tested for COVID-19, related testing, and contact tracing (if needed). Information you provide will remain confidential.

Are you a First Responder, Healthcare Worker, or Front-line and Essential Worker in settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery store clerks, gas station attendants, childcare provider, etc.)?

☐ I am a first responder.  
☐ I am a healthcare worker.  
☐ I am a front-line and essential worker.  
☐ None of the above.

Previous Next

### Your COVID-19 Registration

 svc-dhhs-covid19 <NC-COVID-19-NoReply@dhhs.nc.gov>

Thank you for checking your symptoms for COVID-19 and completing the online questionnaire. Based on your responses, you should consider getting tested for COVID-19. Visit the [Find My Testing Place](#) tool for a list of testing sites so you can find one near you.


The symptom checker is an informational tool to help you determine if you may need to be tested; however it is not a physician order. Testing sites may require their own screening.

If you will be getting tested, there are a few things to know before you go:

- Please bring the code provided below with you (this can be on your phone or printed) to the testing site. (Be aware that some collection locations may not use this code for registration.)
- Some locations may require an appointment.
- Some locations are no cost, but others may require insurance or direct payment.
- There are different methods of testing. There are tests that can be done without needing to touch another person. Site facilities, themselves, may be walk-ups or drive-throughs.

Following testing and until you receive your test results and guidance from the COVID Community Team you will need to

- Monitor yourself for symptoms and
- Stay home and avoid contact with others in your household. If you do not have a place to isolate, help may be available. Please call 2-1-1 to be connected with resources.



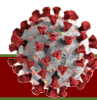
Text Message  
Today 11:40

Slow the spread. Based on your symptoms and responses, please consider getting tested for COVID-19. Click here for testing sites near you: <https://ncdhhs.gov/TestingPlace>



 Text Message
 

- **Residents** will utilize the tool to understand if they should get tested
- Individuals will receive either a text message or email depending on their preferred method of contact
- <https://ncdhhs-covid19-dtra.powerappsportals.us>



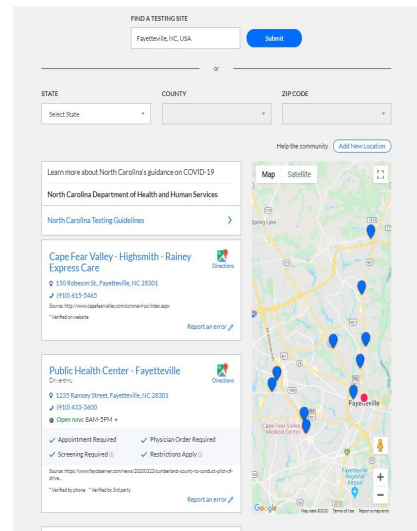
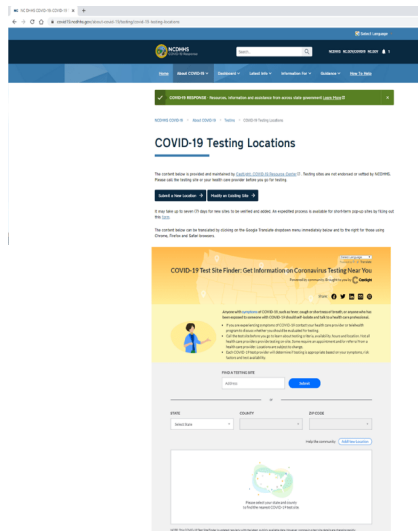
\*The symptom checker is an informational tool to help you determine if you may need to get tested; however it is not a physician order. Testing sites may require their own screening.

# What is the Find My Testing Location Tool?

Individuals may navigate to the Castlight **COVID-19 Test Site Finder**, either via the link in the email/text message following the **Check My Symptoms Portal** or via the NCDHHS public website.

- **Residents** will utilize the tool to find a testing location near them
- **DHHS** will utilize the tool to report on the number of testing sites available
- **Residents and LHDs** will use the tool to register a new test collection site

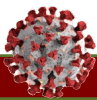
## Find My Testing Location pages



## How it works

Individuals will then enter their address, city, county or zip code of interest. Individuals will then see a list and map of closest testing sites along with pertinent information. In order to get tested, the individual will need to follow the instructions for the particular testing site. This could be via walk-in appointment (i.e., at urgent care facility) or by calling to schedule an appointment and getting a physician's order (i.e., at primary care practice).

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place>



# Request for Qualified Vendors (RFQ)

Provides greater transparency for businesses into the State needs related to COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing



## Increase testing

**115,904** tests were completed over the past week (6/8-6/14)

- **16,557** 7 day rolling average
  - Source: [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/testing](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/testing)

**RFQ** will permit NCDHHS to contract with vendors to run high throughput & directed mobile collection sites



## Equity access to opportunities

- Executive Order No. 143 to address disparities in communities of color that are being highlighted and intensified by this pandemic
- NC DHHS worked with North Carolina Historically Underutilized Business Office (HUB) in this RFQ



## Reserve lab capacity

- Currently have ~**32** private and hospital labs performing COVID-19 testing
- State Lab may need to reserve additional laboratory capacity to support initiatives



## Offers Flexibility & Directed Community Resources

- Anticipate up to possible 3000 total contact tracing staff to support efforts
- CCNC is now authorized to hire 450 Case Investigators, Contact Tracers and support staff
- Provides additional way to meet demand for community-based resources
  - Bilingual, Spanish in high demand
  - Connecting with community

## Reimbursement for Testing Overview

- **Who Should I Bill for Testing?**

**All major insurers, including commercial insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid will generally cover COVID-19 testing for their enrollees when it is ordered by a provider. (Medicare and Medicaid also may cover testing in cases where the test is not ordered by a provider.) Providers should bill insurance for COVID-19 testing. Coverage of testing is also available for uninsured individuals under the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program.**

- **Should Patients be Charged Cost Sharing for Testing?**

**No. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), COVID-19 testing must be covered at no out-of-pocket cost for individuals enrolled in most private coverage, Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP.**

# Reimbursement for Testing through HRSA

- **Which Providers Can Bill the HRSA Uninsured Program?**

Any health care provider who is able to conduct COVID-19 testing under NC law and is able to complete the required attestations and electronic claims submission process, may enroll in the HRSA program. This includes pharmacies and laboratories.

A provider does not need to be enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid to bill HRSA, but providers on the HHS Office of the Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals/Entities and/or any provider who has had their Medicare enrollment revoked by CMS do not qualify for the program. Vendors conducting testing outside of health care provider settings, for example in a pop-up testing site in the community, should ensure a health care provider (such as the laboratory processing tests) is available to bill HRSA for this testing.

- **Will HRSA Cover Testing for All Uninsured Individuals?**

HRSA will cover COVID-19 testing for the vast majority of uninsured individuals, including anyone who is not covered by an individual or employer-sponsored plan, a federal health care program, or the federal employee health benefits program at the time of testing. A provider does not need to assess whether an uninsured individual is eligible for another form of coverage, only that they are not currently enrolled in another form of coverage.

Providers should ask whether the patient has Medicare, Medicaid, or commercial or employer insurance, like Blue Cross Blue Shield. Providers should also consult the Medicaid eligibility system to confirm whether an individual is enrolled in Medicaid when determining whether to bill Medicaid or HRSA. Based on the guidance currently available, individuals enrolled in the Medicaid Family Planning Program appear to be considered enrolled in Medicaid, despite the lack of Medicaid coverage for COVID-19 testing, and appear to be ineligible for HRSA testing coverage. The State is encouraging CMS and HRSA to address this oversight.

- **Will HRSA Cover Testing for Undocumented Individuals?**

Providers are not required to confirm immigration status of uninsured individuals. While a provider must attempt to gather an SSN or state identification/driver's license before submitting a claim, neither an SSN nor a state identification/driver's license is required to qualify for HRSA coverage. Claims submitted without this information may take longer to process, but should not be denied. Note that HRSA coverage is not on the list of public benefits subject to the "Public Charge" rule, and use of this program should not affect citizenship or green card proceedings for immigrants.

# Linking to Resources

[HTTPS://FILES.NC.GOV/COVID/DOCUMENTS/GUIDANCE/HEALTH  
CARE/COVID-19-PROVIDER-GUIDANCE-FINAL.PDF](https://files.nc.gov/COVID/Documents/Guidance/HealthCare/COVID-19-Provider-Guidance-Final.pdf)

[HTTPS://FILES.NC.GOV/COVID/DOCUMENTS/C  
OMMUNITY-TESTING-GUIDANCE.PDF](https://files.nc.gov/COVID/Documents/Community-Testing-Guidance.pdf)

[HTTPS://COVID19.NCDHHS.GOV/INFORMATIO  
N/HEALTH-CARE/REQUESTING-PPE](https://COVID19.NCDHHS.GOV/INFORMATION/HEALTH-CARE/REQUESTING-PPE)

[HTTPS://COVID19.NCDHHS.GOV/INFORMATIO  
N/HEALTH-CARE/REQUESTING-SPECIMEN-  
TESTING-SUPPLIES](https://COVID19.NCDHHS.GOV/INFORMATION/HEALTH-CARE/REQUESTING-SPECIMEN-TESTING-SUPPLIES)

[HTTPS://COVID19.NCDHH  
S.GOV/ABOUT-COVID-  
19/TESTING](https://COVID19.NCDHHS.GOV/ABOUT-COVID-19/TESTING)