

# IREDELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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HEALTH DIRECTOR



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Iredell County Health Department

## NEWS RELEASE

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
2:00PM

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### Iredell County COVID-19 Mitigation Guidance

The mission of the Iredell County Health Department is to protect the personal, community, and environmental health of Iredell County residents. Due to the increasing emergence of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in NC, we want to assist our community in taking proactive steps to protect their health by sharing recommendations from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) meant to slow the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak and reduce the number of people infected.

If followed, these recommended actions will have a significant impact on the lives of Iredell County residents. NC DHHS is making these recommendations based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), current actions by other States, and the most up-to-date epidemiologic information they had to protect the public's health. This is a critical moment in the growing outbreak of COVID-19 in North Carolina when such measures can potentially impact the spread of the disease. These recommendations should be implemented immediately and will extend through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The health department will continue to monitor the situation closely and will relay any received guidance on changing or extending these precautionary measures. We will also continue to provide the community with up-to-date information about COVID-19 through our website or media releases.

NC DHHS recommends that anyone at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should avoid large groups of people as much as possible. This includes gatherings such as concert venues, conventions, church services, sporting events, and crowded social events. People at high risk should also avoid cruise travel and non-essential air travel.

Individuals at **HIGH RISK** include:

- Anyone over 65 years of age, or
- Anyone with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, or
- Anyone with a weakened immune system.

The following recommendations pertain to persons and establishments statewide.

### CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES

All facilities that serve as residential establishments for high risk persons described above should limit visitors and restrict all visitors who have respiratory illness or potential exposure to COVID-19. These establishments include: nursing homes, independent and assisted living facilities, correctional facilities, and facilities that care for medically vulnerable children.

Central Office  
318 Turnersburg Hwy  
Statesville, NC 28625  
704-878-5300

Mooresville Site  
610 E. Center Avenue  
Mooresville, NC 28115  
704-664-5281

Environmental Health  
349 N. Center Street  
Statesville, NC 28677  
704-878-5305 x3456

## **MASS GATHERING OR LARGE COMMUNITY EVENTS**

It is recommended that event organizers:

- Urge anyone who is sick to not attend.
- Encourage those who are at high risk, described above, to not attend.
- Adopt lenient refund policies for people who are high risk.
- Find ways to give people more physical space to limit close contact as much as possible.
- Encourage attendees to wash hands frequently.
- Clean surfaces with standard cleaners.

## **ALL TRAVELERS**

All travelers returning from countries and US states impacted by COVID-19 are encouraged to follow DHHS guidance on self-monitoring:

For fourteen-days after the return date from a trip, monitor your health.

- Take your temperature twice daily
- STAY HOME if you feel sick with fever, cough, or have difficulty breathing
- Visit your primary care provider. Please call ahead and let them know about your symptoms and recent travel.

The below link includes information about COVID-19 for travelers and travel related industries.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

## **SCHOOLS**

NC DHHS is NOT recommending pre-emptive closure of schools and childcare centers at this time.

To view the NC DHHS Mitigation Guidance, please visit the following link:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/covid-19-mitigation-guidance>

Additional information related to COVID-19 can be found at the following resources:

NC DHHS-DPH: [epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/diseases/2019nCoV.html](https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/diseases/2019nCoV.html)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).

Iredell County Health Department: <https://nc-iredellcounty.civicplus.com/1383/Coronavirus-COVID-19>

North Carolina Public Information Hotline: 1-866-462-3821

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