# CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANTS

The North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center

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UNC | GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Who are Child Care Health Consultants?

CCHCs are trained health professionals with education and experience in both child and community health and early care and education

Qualified CCHCs have successfully completed the 12-week NC Child Care Health Consultant Course

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## CCHC Areas of Expertise

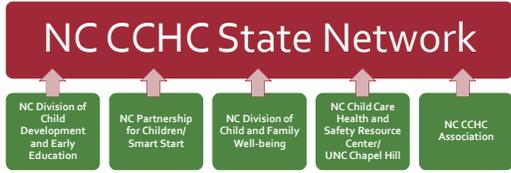| Illness and Infectious Diseases | Inclusion of Children with Special Health Care Needs | Medication Administration | Safety and Injury Prevention |
| Emergency Preparedness and Response | Infant and Child Social and Emotional Wellbeing | Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect | Nutrition and Physical Activity |
| Oral Health | Environmental Health | Staff Health and Wellness | |

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## Health and Safety Assessments

CCHCs
- conduct observational assessments
- develop quality improvement plans in collaboration with early educators
- identify and help implement strategies for change
- conduct follow-up assessments to determine next steps

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## Laws, Rules, ERS, and Best Practices

CCHCs help facilities blend the "ingredients" needed to develop policies and inform daily operations
- Federal and state laws, OSHA standards
- NC Child Care Rules
- Sanitation of Child Care Centers
- Best practices from CFOC, AAP, CDC, NAEYC and other expert sources
- Environment Rating Scales/NC Rated License Assessment Project

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## Example: Farm to Preschool

growing-minds.org/nc-farm-to-preschool-network/

SERVING LOCAL FOODS
In North Carolina Child Care Centers
Guidance on Food Preparation and Gardening

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## Who Supports the CCHC Network?

**NC CCHC State Network**

| NC Division of Child Development and Early Education | NC Partnership for Children/ Smart Start | NC Division of Child and Family Well-being | NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center/ UNC Chapel Hill | NC CCHC Association |

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## Regional CCHC coaches

Lisa Shifflett
NC Resource Center
lisa_shifflett@unc.edu
919.215.0157

Theresa Stenersen
NC Resource Center
theresa_stenersen@unc.edu
828.421.7655

Karla Cooper
NC Resource Center
karla_cooper@unc.edu
919.295.2135

Amy Petersen
Division of Child and Family Well-being
amy.petersen@dhhs.nc.gov
919.215.8981

## Find a CCHC

- Go to: **healthychildcare.unc.edu**
- Click on **Find a CCHC**
- Search using:
  - Map of **Primary CCHCs**
  - Search by name, county, or hiring agency
- List also shows type of support:
  - Primary - funded CCHCs covering counties or regions
  - Support for certain types of facilities, such as head start
  - Independent – work for a fee

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## Collaborate between agencies

Education consultants

Project specialists

Mental health consultants

How do regulatory agencies and technical assistance providers in your community:
- connect with each other?
- make referrals?
- provide consistent messaging to early educators?

Child Care

Regulatory agencies

Child Care Health Consultants

TA providers

## Regulatory Agencies

Regulatory agencies
- Refer to CCHCs for health and safety concerns found during visits

CCHCs
- Provide on-going health and safety TA and training based on child care and sanitation rules

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A violation is given during an inspection for handwashing procedures.
- Call a CCHC! A CCHC can further observe handwashing practices and offer one-on-one technical assistance on proper procedures as well as provide a training for all staff.

A child is injured on playground equipment.
- Call a CCHC! The CCHC can provide guidance on safe handling of blood and proper incident documentation. The CCHC can assess the playground and help determine what changes to make to prevent this from happening again.

# COVID-19 UPDATES

## COVID-19 cases over last year

Cases by Week of Specimen Collection for North Carolina - 9/4/2021 through Week Ending 8/20/2022

200,000

100,000

0

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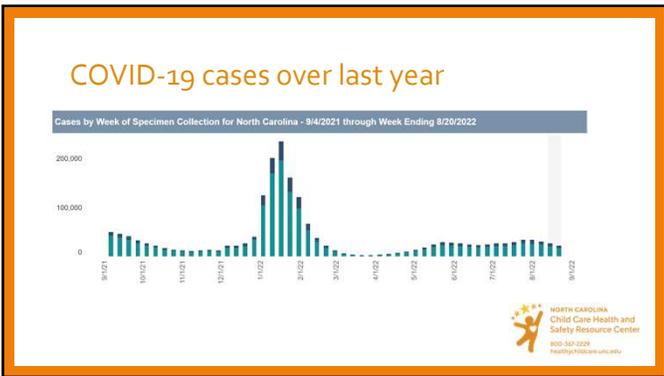
## Current response to COVID

From **crisis management** to **prevention and management of communicable disease.**

Continue to implement layered prevention strategies to reduce the risk of ALL communicable diseases
- Immunization for all vaccine preventable diseases
- Stay home (and get tested) when sick
- Daily Health Checks
- Ventilation
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette / cleaning

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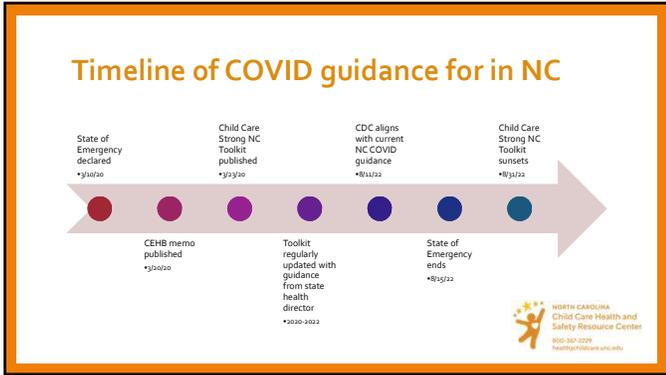## Timeline of COVID guidance for in NC

State of Emergency declared
• 3/10/20

Child Care Strong NC Toolkit published
• 3/23/20

CDC aligns with current NC COVID guidance
• 8/11/22

Child Care Strong NC Toolkit sunsets
• 8/31/22

CEHB memo published
• 3/20/20

Toolkit regularly updated with guidance from state health director
• 2020-2022

State of Emergency ends
• 8/15/22

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## Managing COVID-19 in Child Care Facilities

Replaces the ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit
• Follow CDC guidance: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare
• **Except** allows mask exemption upon return after infection or exposure

#StayStrongNC
**ChildCareStrongNC**
Managing COVID-19 Cases in Child Care Facilities
Published March 23, 2020 • Updated August 31, 2022

covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/220/open

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## Questions?

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## Thank you!

**NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center**

5601 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27699

800-367-2229, choose 1, then 2

resourcecenter@unc.edu

www.healthychildcare.unc.edu

Find a CCHC: healthychildcare.unc.edu/find-a-cchc