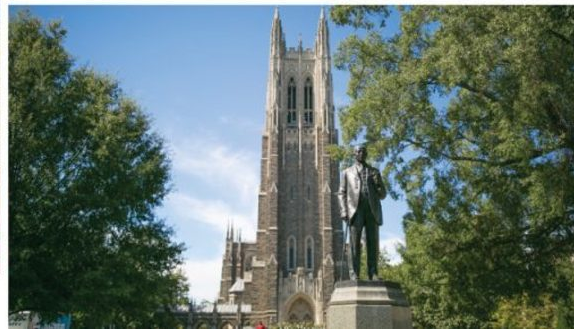


# Duke | State Relations



*A summary of news from Raleigh that affects Duke University,  
Duke Health, and Duke LifePoint Healthcare.*

***September 1, 2020***

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## **News Alert: Governor Cooper Announces North Carolina's Move to Phase 2.5**

Governor Roy Cooper announced today that North Carolina would move to "[Safer at Home: Phase 2.5](#)" of easing COVID-19 restrictions on Friday, September 4th at 5:00 p.m. North Carolina has remained in Phase 2 of easing restrictions since May 20th. Governor Cooper and N.C. DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen explained that the state has used a modest approach to easing restrictions and that many of the state's COVID-19 metrics are stabilizing or declining. In addition to announcing a move to Phase 2.5, Governor Cooper signed an executive order yesterday that extends the 11 p.m. [curfew on alcohol sales](#) through October 2nd.

Details of "Safer at Home: Phase 2.5" include:

- Limits on mass gatherings will increase to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors
- Playgrounds can reopen
- Museums and aquariums can reopen at 50% capacity
- Gyms and indoor exercise facilities can reopen at 30% capacity
- Masks will be required in public for anyone age 5 and older

- Restrictions and capacity limits on restaurants and personal care facilities will remain the same
- Bars, night clubs, movie theaters, indoor entertainment venues, and amusement parks will remain closed
- Large venues will continue to be subject to the mass gathering restriction

Secretary Cohen also gave an update on the state's COVID-19 metrics. COVID-like syndromic cases are declining, lab-confirmed cases are stable but high, positive tests as a percentage of total tests is stable, hospitalizations are declining, testing capacity has improved, the number of contact tracers has increased, and the state's PPE supplies remain stable. Governor Cooper and Secretary Cohen both emphasized that until we have a vaccine or reliable cure for COVID-19, North Carolinians will need to continue practicing the 3 Ws: Wear a face mask, Wait six feet apart, and Wash your hands.

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