



North Georgia Health District: General COVID-19 Updates

Issued Tuesday, June 16, 2020

- **What is the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.?** COVID-19 case numbers are constantly updating but as of this morning, the [CDC website reports](#) 2,085,769 cases in the United States and other U.S. jurisdictions, with 115,644 deaths.
- **In Georgia?** As of the latest [Georgia Department of Public Health Daily Status Report](#), there have been 58,414 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 2,494 deaths and 9,322 hospitalizations statewide.
- **In the North Georgia Health District?** The North Georgia Health District has had a total of 2,106 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 47 deaths and 247 hospitalizations. There continues to be community transmission in all six counties of the district, which includes Cherokee, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens and Whitfield counties.

Please refer to the [Georgia Department of Public Health Daily Status Report](#) for numbers of confirmed cases and deaths by counties. This report is now updating once each day at 3 PM.

- Gov. Brian Kemp further loosened COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in Georgia through an Executive Order released last Thursday. Here are some of the most significant highlights:
 - Shelter in place ended for Georgia residents and visitors over 65 years old unless they are in a nursing home, in a long-term care facility or have health issues.
 - Walk-ins are allowed at barbershops, hair salons, massage therapy centers and body art studios subject to specific requirements.
 - Groups up to 50 may meet without social distancing requirements and restrictions are removed on the number of people per square foot in a restaurant. Movie theaters no longer have a limit on the number of people sitting together in one party.
 - Bars may serve up to 50 people at a time or 35% of their listed fire capacity, whichever is greater.
 - Professional and school sports teams may meet but must follow rules set by their leagues or athletic conferences. Amateur sports must follow criteria for non-critical businesses.
 - On June 16, overnight summer camps may resume if campers and workers have tested negative for COVID-19 within the last 12 days.
 - Beginning July 1, live performance venues may reopen and conventions may resume if they conform to specific criteria.
 - Mandatory requirements for operating non-critical businesses and other organizations were extended through June 30.

Learn more at <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

- Suspension of nursing services at public health departments in North Georgia has ended. [Essential services are being offered and protective measures are followed](#). Clients are to call ahead for an appointment, and WIC services are available by phone in all six counties at (706) 370-4700.
- Residents are urged to call 1-888-881-1474 to register for FREE COVID-19 Testing at a public health testing site in Cherokee, Gilmer or Whitfield County or at a Pop-Up Site in Fannin, Murray or Pickens County – Check the news section of www.nghd.org for updates on each of site. First responders have priority and may get tested without registering ahead.
- The State of Georgia hotline for questions concerning COVID-19 is (844) 442-2681.