

Getting Your Flu Shot During COVID & How to Find Community Testing Health Director Update - 8/21/2020

Good afternoon Durham, I'm Rod Jenkins, director of the Durham County Department of Public Health. This week, there has been a lot of conversation about COVID-19 clusters at local universities, and we know many of you have questions about this, so first I will address this. Then I'll discuss how to stay safe as we are rapidly approaching flu season, and I'll let you know about a new way to find COVID-19 testing opportunities near you.

First, if you've been following COVID news, I'm sure you've been hearing a lot about COVID-19 clusters at universities. A cluster is defined as 5 or more new COVID-19 cases confirmed within one setting in a 14-day period. As COVID-19 clusters have been confirmed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, these campuses have moved to virtual classes only. But at this time, Duke University and North Carolina Central University remain open for in-person instruction. If you have questions about how your or your child's university is managing COVID-19, be sure to visit the university's website for more information and ongoing updates.

Next, moving into the fall means flu season is just around the corner. Please know that even during the pandemic, it is very important to keep yourself and your children up to date on necessary vaccinations, including the flu shot. And this season, as you try to remain safe from COVID-19, it is more important than ever to ensure that you keep your body healthy from the flu as well by getting your annual flu shot. Additionally, with increased demand on our hospitals and healthcare resources due to the pandemic, it is critical that we do all we can to remain healthy from the flu in order to keep from overwhelming our healthcare systems. Getting a flu shot this season protects you and your loved ones, and it helps maintain the strength of our hospitals and healthcare resources.

But if you do start to feel sick, it remains critical to get tested for COVID-19 as soon as you can, and now there's a new way to find testing sites near you. Using the Find My Testing Place Tool on the NCDHHS website, you can now find the dates and locations of upcoming testing events. On this site you can sort the events by county, price, and date. You can also find out if the events test children, and more. You can access this page through the Find My Testing Place tool or by visiting the web address shown on screen.

We're transitioning into the fall soon, and we're continuing to monitor cases on our campuses and in our community as things can change quickly. So stay tuned to updates on our website, the NCDHHS, and your university's website to make sure you're doing all you can to stay safe. Following safety measures is even more important now than it was when this pandemic began, so remember to remain safe by frequently washing your hands, staying home as much as possible, and wearing your face covering when you go out to protect yourselves and others. We can do this, Durham.

