



ABC & NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina policy and political news relevant to the North Carolina's ABC Boards

General Assembly Adjourns Sine Die

The North Carolina General Assembly adjourned its 2019-2020 session after passing a \$1 billion COVID-19 package aimed at helping small businesses and families.

Those expenditures in [HB1105 \(Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0\)](#) include childcare support of \$335 to North Carolina parents; unemployment benefits increased; \$50 million to the Lost Wages Assistance Programs, and an additional \$45 million for small business grant program.

The votes in the House and Senate were overwhelmingly bipartisan for the bill.

Unless Governor Roy Cooper calls the General Assembly back into session, the General Assembly will return in 2021.

Happy Labor Day!

"Labor Day is a day to honor hard work and sacrifice in our country and I especially want to express my gratitude to the hardworking employees in all of North Carolina's ABC stores, including our vendors, distributors, and ABC law enforcement officers," said NCAACB President Miles Davis. "Our work is so very important to our state and we could not get that work done without the dedicated employees in our industry."

Governor Cooper: Phase 2.5 Starts Today at 5PM

Governor Roy Cooper announced on Tuesday that after a summer of hard work to slow the spread of COVID-19, North Carolina will move into Phase 2.5 starting today (September 4) at 5pm.

However, mask mandates and other prevention methods remain in effect. On Monday, Governor Cooper also signed Executive Order [162](#), which requires restaurants to continue ending the sale of alcoholic beverages at 11 pm. The order essential began in July and will remain in effect through October 2, 2020.

"Safer at Home Phase 2.5 continues our state's dimmer switch approach to easing some restrictions," said Governor Cooper. "We can do this safely only if we keep doing what we know works – wearing masks and social distancing. In fact, a new phase is exactly when we need to take this virus even more seriously."

Phase 2.5 means the following for North Carolina:

- Mass gathering limits will increase to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors from the current limit of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors.
- Playgrounds may open.
- Museums and aquariums may open at 50% capacity.
- Gyms and indoor exercise facilities, such as yoga studios, martial arts, and rock climbing, as well as skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor basketball, volleyball etc., may open at 30% capacity.
- Bars, nightclubs, movie theaters, indoor entertainment facilities, amusement parks, dance halls will remain closed.
- Large venues remain subject to the mass gathering limits.

In addition, NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen issued a Secretarial Order allowing for outdoor visitation at nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities. To participate, nursing homes must meet several requirements, including, but not limited to, not having a current outbreak, having a testing plan and updated written Infection Control or Preparedness plan for COVID-19, and having adequate personal protective equipment. The Secretarial Order is effective as of September 4 at 5 PM and remains in effect through September 22, 2020.

