



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

KODY H. KINSLEY  
SECRETARY

SECRETARIAL DIRECTIVE 2022-001

DATE: 07/18/22 | 1:05 PM EDT

SUBJECT: Declaration of Continuing Benefits due to COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, has declared that a public health emergency continues to exist and has existed since January 16, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 12, 2022, North Carolina has seen 2,892,680 reported cases, which includes molecular (PCR) positive cases and antigen positive cases. Sadly, 25,257 North Carolinians have died so far from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, while the State of North Carolina continues to make significant progress in its efforts to reduce the number of cases and consequent deaths arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, our current trends indicate a rise in number of reported cases, number of individuals hospitalized with COVID-19, and COVID-19 virus particles in wastewater; and

**WHEREAS**, data reported by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) on July 12, 2022, shows 77% of the North Carolina adult population (18+) had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination and 58% of all North Carolinians that have completed an initial vaccine series are boosted with at least one booster or additional dose, and 29% of children ages 6 months to 17 years are vaccinated with at least one dose; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic together with other external forces continue to present enormous economic and financial challenges for the population as a whole;

**WHEREAS**, data reported by the [United States Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov) indicates the significant impact of rising inflation on households, as shown by the increase in consumer price index (CPI), a measure of economy-wide inflation, by 9.1% from June 2021 to June 2022, the increase in CPI for food purchased for use at home by 12.2% from June 2021 to June 2022, the increase in gasoline CPI by 59.9%, and the increase in price of electricity by 13.7%, indicating reduced purchasing power for households as overall, food, gas, and energy inflation exceeds historical averages; and

**WHEREAS**, the lowest-income households (bottom 20% of households) devote some 55.8% of the spending to basic expenses such as food, housing, and transportation that have increased rapidly over the past year, and withdrawing income supports such as SNAP will contribute to such households falling even further behind and increasing hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, applications for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) in NC have increased by 62% January 2022 – June 2022 when compared to January 2021 – June 2021, indicating increased need for food assistance; and

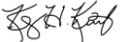
**WHEREAS**, research has documented the high economic multiplier associated with SNAP benefits, the removal of funds for SNAP emergency allotment benefits would reduce economic activity in communities across the state and further slow their economic recovery from the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of COVID-19's impact on North Carolina's economy, North Carolina families continue to struggle with providing basic necessities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, effective upon the date my signature is affixed to this document, I, Kody Kinsley, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and based on authority granted me under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143B-137.1, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 108A-25, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-5, do hereby direct NCDHHS to continue taking all necessary actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the State of North Carolina, consistent with existing North Carolina law including:

1. To the greatest extent possible, provide all available and necessary financial and any other available benefit assistance to eligible residents of North Carolina; and
2. Taking all available and necessary steps as may be necessary to render the State eligible for available federal funds or other assistance; and
3. Entering into or continuing participating in any agreements, contracts, or programs whose primary purpose is to make public assistance benefits, as well as any other assistance, available to more fully address the economic and health-related impacts of COVID-19 on the residents of North Carolina.

This Declaration shall be effective August 15, 2022 and shall remain in effect through the duration of the Public Health Emergency as declared by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Kody H. Kinsley  
Secretary  
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services