



WELLCOME MD



The Situation in Richmond

In January, the U.S. recorded the highest number of monthly COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began. In recent days, new cases and hospitalizations have shown a decline, signaling a hope that the death toll will follow.

As of Feb. 8, Central Virginia is averaging 695 [new COVID-19 cases per day](#), down from 806 on Feb. 1 and 863 on Jan. 25. Statewide, the commonwealth is averaging 3,312 new cases per day, compared to 4,146 a week ago and 4,581 two weeks ago.

In Central Virginia, 612 [hospital beds](#) were occupied by COVID-19 patients on Feb. 8, down from 615 on Feb. 1 and 704 on Jan. 25. At the state level, 2,279 hospital beds were occupied by COVID-19 patients in Virginia on Feb. 8, down from 2,441 on Feb. 1 and 2,888 on Jan. 25.

The [death rate](#) continues to fluctuate, with the most recent numbers holding fairly steady statewide. Central Virginia is averaging 8 deaths per day as of Feb. 8, compared to 8 deaths per day on Feb. 1 and 7 deaths per day on Jan. 25. Statewide, Virginia is averaging 49 deaths per day as of Feb. 8, down from 56 average deaths on Feb. 1 and 50 average deaths on Jan. 25.

The Situation in Charlotte

In January, the U.S. recorded the highest number of monthly COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began. In recent days, new cases and hospitalizations have shown a decline, signaling a hope that the death toll will follow.

On Feb. 3, Mecklenburg County recorded 604 [new COVID-19 cases](#), down from 659 on Jan. 27 and Jan. 20.

Hospitalizations are decreasing in both [Mecklenburg County](#) and [the state](#). The county reported 312 COVID-19 hospitalizations on Feb. 3, down from 386 on Jan. 27 and 470 on Jan. 20. Statewide, North Carolina reported 2,654 people in the hospital with COVID-19 on Feb. 3, down from 3,229 on Jan. 27 and 3,667 on Jan. 20.

COVID-19 Vaccine Efficacy

As COVID-19 headlines dominate the media and new updates emerge daily, the vaccine information continues to be positive. Currently, the U.S. has authorized two vaccines for emergency use (Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech), and two more are expected to be granted authorization in the near future (Johnson & Johnson and Novavax).

"Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have shown to be 94-95% effective against COVID-19 symptoms after two doses, which is encouraging," says WellcomeMD's Dr. John Woodward. "The immediate goal isn't elimination of COVID-19, but instead it's to downgrade COVID-19 from a devastating pandemic to a normal virus. So far, the vaccines appear effective in helping to achieve this goal."

The vaccines were developed in response to the original COVID-19 strain, so the emergence of new variants out of the U.K., Brazil, and South Africa has caused concern. The U.K. variant has been detected in Mecklenburg County, but the news isn't all bad. "It spreads much easier and is more likely to be spread by children in comparison to the original strain," says Dr. Woodward. "However, it doesn't appear to be more deadly and early data suggests that the vaccine provides protection against the variant."

We understand that some individuals may not want the vaccine and we are respectful of this choice, just as we are supportive of those who choose to proceed with the vaccine.

For answers to the COVID-19 vaccination questions we most frequently hear from members, please read our full [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#).

Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update

Virginia is in [Phase 1B](#) of the COVID-19 vaccination plan, and continues to vaccinate eligible individuals in Phase 1A. The Richmond City and Henrico County Health Districts are currently vaccinating Phase 1B priority groups, which includes frontline essential workers, people age 65+, and people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and migrant labor camps. If you are in Phase 1B and have not yet been contacted about the vaccine, please complete and submit the [Phase 1B Interest Form](#). If you are 65+, please complete and submit the [65+ Interest Form](#).

If you are 65+ and have received care from a VCU-affiliated provider within the last three years, you might be able to secure a vaccine appointment through VCU. To determine availability, log in through the [VCU Health Patient Portal](#). CVS and Walgreens have also announced COVID-19 vaccine registration in Virginia, though supply is limited. For eligibility and registration through CVS, [click here](#). For eligibility and registration through Walgreens, [click here](#).

For the latest updates on vaccination progress across the U.S., visit the CDC's COVID-19 vaccination tracker [here](#).

North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update

North Carolina is currently vaccinating [Groups 1 and 2](#) of the COVID-19 vaccination plan. These groups include healthcare workers, long-term care residents and staff, and people age 65+. To find a vaccine provider near you, visit the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services vaccine locator website [here](#). Walgreens has also announced COVID-19 vaccine registration in North Carolina, though supply is limited. For eligibility and registration through Walgreens, [click here](#).

For the latest updates on vaccination progress across the U.S., visit the CDC's COVID-19 vaccination tracker [here](#).

Questions About Joining WellcomeMD

Now more than ever it's important to know you can rely on your physician when it matters most. Schedule a virtual visit with [Dr. John Woodward](#) and join WellcomeMD for the peace of mind you are looking for during this pandemic. Contact Tara Greenberg at **(980) 585-9870** or email Tara.Greenberg@WellcomeMD.com.

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