



From The NC Board of Funeral Service

As the Coronavirus continues to spread across the United States, it has direct and immediate impact on North Carolina. With regard to the practice of funeral service, the NC Board of Funeral Service will send you regular updates on the crisis as more information is announced at both the state and federal levels.

As an important first step, please visit the Board website at www.ncbfs.org for links to current, critical sources of information regarding the virus and its impact on our state and profession.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & UPDATES FOR LICENSEES

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC FINGERPRINTING

The Board understands that many local law enforcement agencies across North Carolina have temporarily suspended public fingerprinting. This suspension could certainly impact applicants and prospective applicants for licensure or transport permits who must undergo a criminal history background check through the NC State Bureau of Investigation.

Board staff wants to alert you that there could be delays in obtaining the necessary background check since it is a requirement for individual licensure or permitting. Please check with your local law enforcement agency if you need to confirm whether or not they have suspended public fingerprinting in your jurisdiction.

STAY-AT-HOME PROCLAMATIONS

Local governments and municipalities across North Carolina continue to adopt orders or proclamations requiring residents to stay-at-home to every extent possible. Wake County announced restrictions on non-essential businesses and travel this afternoon and has disallowed public gatherings of any size. Their proclamation does include funeral service professions as an "Essential Business." Other jurisdictions implementing similar restrictions are Winston-Salem, High Point, and Guilford County; others will likely follow.

As noted in earlier advisories, please consult with an attorney or contact legal staff in your jurisdiction for guidance on the interpretation and application of these restrictions and mandates to determine how you might be affected.

For a complete listing of counties and municipalities that have implemented Stay-at-Home orders, please visit <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/coronavirus/article241524906.html>.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND WORK SCHEDULE

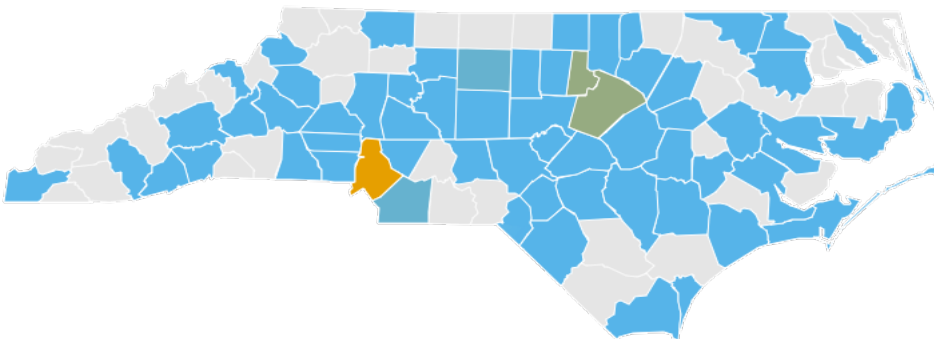
Board staff will continue to provide regular services although most staff are teleworking from home to assure maximum protection from the spread of the coronavirus. As an essential business, the Board office will continue its daily operations with the least interruption or delay possible. Please note, however, that the office suite in Raleigh, NC, is temporarily closed to visitors to minimize contacts with others and to prevent as much as possible further spread of the virus. We also want to advise that our receptionist services will be reduced beginning March 27th in response to the need for protecting staff's safety and well-being. If you call after 1:00 pm, you will hear the automated voice attendant and be directed to a specific extension for the program area you are trying to reach. Staff have forwarded calls to their home phones so that they can continue to receive incoming calls; however, you may experience some delay in response times. We do encourage email messages to an appropriate staff member if you have an immediate need to resolve a particular program issue or question. Please avoid FAX service at this time if possible.

Please remember that all compliance calls, i.e. those that involve an opinion of statute or rule or interpretation of a Board policy or procedure should be directed to the Compliance Inspector on-call for a particular day. If your question concerns an issue related to the coronavirus pandemic, please contact the Compliance Inspector for your county. You'll find a listing of staff, emails and Compliance Inspector phone numbers on the March 23rd Advisory which posted to the NCBFS website/Coronavirus Advisory at www.ncbfs.org.

FUNERAL PLACARDS

In the Advisory you received yesterday, we included links to a vehicle placard for Funeral Service Professionals and for Cemetery Professionals. We regret that the links were not enabled and thus prevented any download for accessing them. We added the links for downloading the placards to the website early this morning, so please go to the [Coronavirus Advisory](http://www.ncbfs.org) page at www.ncbfs.org, and you will find these links under [Important Information](#). Please feel free to download and print these placards as needed for placement in funeral vehicles to alert local law enforcement that you are deemed "essential" under most municipal and county Stay-at-Home orders.

636	Number of confirmed cases in the state of North Carolina
12,910	Number of coronavirus tests conducted in the state
2	Number of deaths related to the coronavirus in North Carolina



Counties in gray have not reported any COVID-19 cases at this time. Mecklenburg County in orange has the highest number of reported cases. Wake and Durham in green have the next highest number of reported cases.