

April 28, 2021

Dear Local Education Leaders,

Thank you for your continued work to provide a safe and supportive learning and working environment for your students, teachers, and staff during the pandemic. I want to provide an update on new funding and tools that will support in-person instruction in all of our schools across the state, and clarify next steps.

The federal government recently released additional funding to states to support K-12 schools across the country in their screening testing efforts. This funding became available to North Carolina in mid-April and will support testing efforts until July 31, 2023. Additionally, students 16 and over and school staff are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines now and NC DHHS anticipates younger K-12 students will soon be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination as an additional mitigation measure. To understand how NC DHHS can best support our K-12 schools in their testing and vaccination efforts and shape plans for the upcoming school year, we have created a short anonymous survey for school administrators to complete.

**Please fill out the [following survey](#) by Wednesday, May 5 at 5:00PM to help the NC Department of Health and Human Services better understand how we can support our schools in both vaccinating and testing their communities to safely continue in-person learning. Please ensure that only one person from each LEA, charter school or private school responds to this survey.**

As always, if I or our team members can answer any questions, please reach out to us at [StrongSchoolsNC@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:StrongSchoolsNC@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, MD, MPH  
State Health Director  
Chief Medical Officer