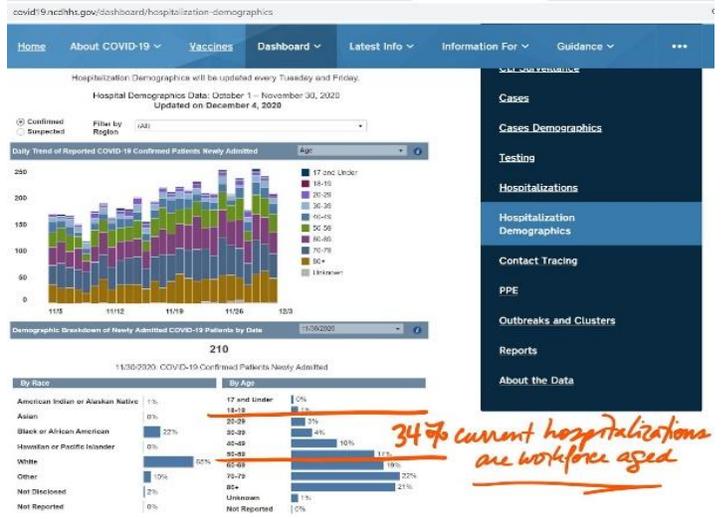
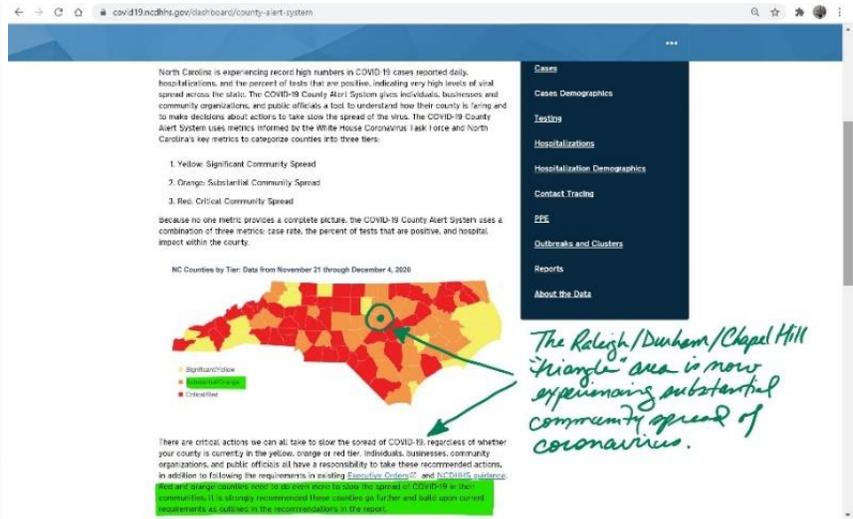
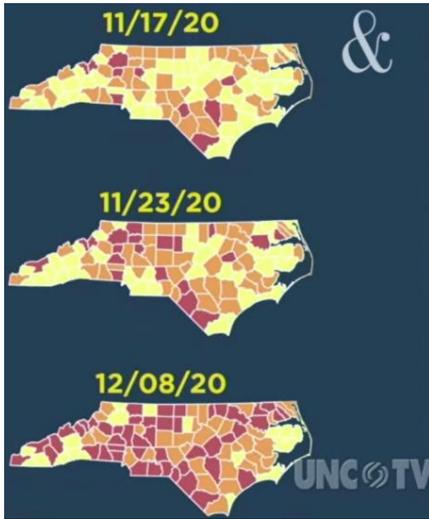


# Carolina Piedmont Agility Winter Events (December 2020 – January 2021)

## Covid Update 12/9/2020

Regarding the coronavirus pandemic, we must acknowledge where we all were when our plans for the winter events were first announced, compared to where we all are now. **We need your input.**



NCDHHS Data	Then	Now	Change
Cases	2,859 (November 5)	6,018 (December 5)	Up 110.5%
Number of Tests	44,931 (November 6)	48,796 (December 6)	Up 8.6%
Positivity Rate	5.9% (November 6)	10.8% (December 5)	Up 83%
Hospitalizations	1,138 (November 7)	2,393 (December 7)	Up 108.5%

### Arena Exception To Mass Gathering Limits

The events are scheduled for inside Hunt Arena (an 81,000 square foot stadium-style equestrian arena) on the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh; with 80 or so people entered, that would be roughly 1,000 square feet per person. <https://www.ncstatefair.org/HuntHorseComplex/MainArena.htm>

Pursuant to guidance from the North Carolina Coronavirus Task Force and the Department of Health & Human Services, and in full accordance with the state's emergency Executive Orders #169 & #176, we continue to be allowed workers, athletes, and support staff inside the arena in excess of more broadly applicable indoor mass gathering limits. [1] [2]

## Face Coverings Required Inside Arena & While Competing

Although previous orders <sup>[3]</sup> <sup>[4]</sup> allowed the possibility of entrants removing masks while running dogs, a most recent order (North Carolina Executive Order #180, enacted November 23, 2020) now requires face coverings "in all public indoor settings if there are non-household members present, regardless of the distance away" (Order #180 Subsection 1(B) amending Order #169 Section 2.1) and removes the "strenuously exercising" exemption (Order #180 Subsection 1(C) amending Order #169 Section 2.4(d)).

<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO180-Face-Coverings-Requirements.pdf>

AKC Director of Agility, Carrie DeYoung (by email correspondence December 5, 2020) confirmed our upcoming agility trials remain licensed in full accordance with AKC Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines if we REQUIRE exhibitors to wear face coverings DURING THEIR RUNS, as we conclude is necessary to comply with North Carolina Executive Order #180. <sup>[5]</sup>

Please appreciate the North Carolina Coronavirus Task Force and the Department of Health & Human Services explicitly advise, "Each individual must assess whether they can safely perform an exercise while wearing a face covering." <sup>[4]</sup>

There are widely available resources for improving mask fit, including instructions for properly tying and folding masks, as well as products designed to augment breathing space while properly masked.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oH5EqBfYKcY> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TTg53aAP8Q>  
<https://www.wral.com/coronavirus/mask-brace-helps-while-wearing-face-mask-during-workouts/19420859/>

## Wake County & Triangle Region Now Experiencing Substantial Community Spread

The most recent North Carolina Coronavirus Task Force briefing (held December 8, 2020) announced the number of counties with Critical Community Spread ("Red" status) has more than doubled from 20 to 48 over the last two weeks. Wake County, along with the other counties in the Triangle Region, has moved from Significant Community Spread ("Yellow" status) to Substantial Community Spread ("Orange" status).

**North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen stressed, "If you are in a "Red" or "Orange" county, you should limit going out to essential activities; you should avoid people you don't live with."**

<http://www.carolinapiedmontagility.com/mandycohen.mp4>

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT !!!

Given these changes over the last month, we need to hear your thoughts. While we had anticipated providing socially-distanced crating and seating for our entrants inside the arena, at this point, we no longer feel that would be prudent. Instead, if we move forward together with these events, **we think it better to focus on:**

- **providing opportunity to crate within vehicles parked near the lower level garage doors and/or under the attached outdoor covered arena**
- **communicating gate status by internet applications and by public address system speakers announcing via microphone to that parking area**
- **limiting walkthroughs to no more than approximately 25 persons at a time**
- **managing entry through the open garage doors onto the arena floor for those entrants about to run and/or volunteering in the ring (at most approximately 25 persons at any time)**
- **requiring masks covering mouths and noses at all times inside the arena, including while competing**

Dog agility competition events can be wonderful activities we share together. ***To be safe and successful, we must all be eager participants (both competing and volunteering) coming together in shared pursuit of a community of interest.*** We anticipate providing at least some flexibility regarding Saturday's closing of entries as needed to allow our entrants an opportunity to reflect and reconnect with us. ***We need to know, would you be comfortable and eager to compete and volunteer under the conditions described?***

**please email your thoughts to [gregfontaine@hotmail.com](mailto:gregfontaine@hotmail.com) and/or contact [firstdobe@gmail.com](mailto:firstdobe@gmail.com) to withdraw entries**

## Reference Notes

[1] North Carolina Executive Order #169 (enacted September 30, 2020) specifies within Subsection 3.2(c)(2) Non-Bar Night Spots and Arenas: Indoor seating areas at all other facilities covered by this Subsection may be open, but are restricted to 25 Guests per facility. It further specifies within Subsection 3.2(e)(1) Interpretation of Capacity Restrictions in this Subsection: Workers, entertainers, athletes, and any other support staff do not count toward the capacity limits stated in Subsections 3.2(c) and 3.2(d) above.

<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO169-Phase-3.pdf>

[2] North Carolina Executive Order #176 (enacted November 10, 2020), while more generally lowering indoor mass gathering limits down from 25 persons to 10 persons, does not change the reduced capacity limits set out for certain facilities and venues, including arenas and performing arts centers remain open, subject to stated capacity limits and other requirements.

<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO-176-FAQ.pdf>

[3] Under previous orders, face coverings were required "in any public place, business or establishment, indoor or outdoor, where it is not possible to consistently be physically distant by more than six (6) feet from non-household members" (Order #169 Section 2.1) and were explicitly exempted for workers or guests "strenuously exercising" (Order #169 Section 2.4(d)).

<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO169-Phase-3.pdf>

[4] While this most recent executive order potentially exempts "Professional or Collegiate Athletes Under a COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocol", the "Frequently Asked Questions" published with this order specifies "For amateur and youth organized sports, face coverings are required indoors at all times for all players and spectators who are at least age 5" and further specifies "Each individual must assess whether they can safely perform an exercise while wearing a face covering."

<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO-180-FAQ.pdf>

[5] AKC best practices for coronavirus mitigation at agility events (published May 12, 2020) specify under "Trial Practices" item #1 that "Exhibitors should be able to run without a mask if they desire." However, it is then further specified that "Participants are expected to follow State, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event."

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/12160607/Agility-Covid-19-Suggested-Best-Practices.pdf>