

Stay Alert: Helping Your Community Navigate Summer Food Recalls

Summer can bring an increase in food recalls, with issues ranging from Listeria and Salmonella contamination to undeclared allergens and foreign materials in packaged goods. These recalls affect a wide variety of products, including produce, meat, snacks, and dairy. As a Board of Health member, it's important to stay informed and help your community respond quickly and safely when recalls arise.

What to Tell Your Community:

- Sign up for food recall alerts via email or text at [FoodSafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov)
- Check product lot numbers and expiration dates carefully. These are usually found near the barcode or on the product label—compare them to recall announcements.
- Report illness or unsafe products to:
 - [FDA's MedWatch](https://www.fda.gov/medwatch) (non-meat items)
 - [USDA FSIS](https://www.usda.gov/fsis) (meat, poultry, and egg products)
- Download the USDA's FoodKeeper App to get food safety and recall notifications.

What's the pulse in North Carolina?

- [GOV. STEIN ANNOUNCES NEARLY \\$3 MILLION IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE](#)
- [THE 'BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL' HAS PASSED. HERE'S HOW IT COULD AFFECT HEALTH CARE IN NC](#)
- [DIAGNOSIS: YOUNG, THE NEW FACE OF CANCER IN NC](#)



Links are clickable throughout the newsletter and provided on page 2

What Does the Latest Federal Legislation Mean for North Carolina Families

The following summary is based on reporting from [North Carolina Health News](#). Recent federal legislation introduces major changes to Medicaid and other public assistance programs. The article outlines how these changes could affect North Carolina following its Medicaid expansion in late 2023.

Key Points to be aware of:

Medicaid & Coverage

- The bill includes federal funding caps, work requirements, and other eligibility restrictions for Medicaid.
- State officials estimate that between 500,000 and 650,000 North Carolinians could lose Medicaid coverage over time.
- Both rural and urban counties may be affected, particularly those with high numbers of recent enrollees.

Health System Impacts

- Rural hospitals may face financial strain due to reduced reimbursements and limited resources.
- Urban safety-net providers could see increased demand if more people lose insurance coverage.

SNAP & Other Support Programs

- The legislation also changes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- State projections suggest that up to 1.4 million residents, including 600,000 children, could be affected by benefit reductions.

Local Planning Considerations

- *The state has not yet outlined a comprehensive response to the funding changes.*
- *Local public health agencies may need to assess potential service demands and impacts on vulnerable populations.*

Hurricane Season

During Hurricane season (June-November) public health leaders play a vital role in helping communities stay prepared and informed. Local Boards of Health can help residents take proactive steps to reduce risk and stay connected to reliable updates.

Preparedness saves lives.

What to Tell Your Community:

- **Visit [ReadyNC.gov](https://www.readync.gov):**
 - Sign up for emergency alerts
 - Find evacuation routes and nearby shelters
 - Access emergency planning guides
 - Get real-time storm updates specific to your area
- **Prepare an emergency supply kit with essentials:**
 - At least 3 days of food and water
 - Prescription medications and important documents
 - Flashlights, batteries, and hygiene supplies
 - Items for infants, pets, or anyone with special needs
- **Stay informed during storms:**
 - Monitor the [National Hurricane Center](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov) for updates
 - Follow local emergency management on social media
- **Stay safe after the storm:**
 - Report power outages/downed lines to your utility provider
 - Avoid floodwaters and check for boil water advisories



Training Opportunities

Recorded:

- If you haven't taken the Introduction to [Public Health in North Carolina](#), it is highly recommended for new Board Members or for those who may want a refresher. This training is self-paced.
- PHCC webinar "[Media Relations Today: How to Build Trust in Public Health Guidance](#)" walks through creating a strong, rapid-response media infrastructure in order to provide accurate information and counter misinformation to bolster public trust.

Upcoming:

- Governance Network - August 11 at 7pm - Learn from Consolidated Agencies about their experience being consolidated and their thoughts on the positives and negatives of this structure. [Learn more and Register here](#)

Links to Resources

Pulse Links:

1) bit.ly/witn_rural 2) bit.ly/BBB_NC 3) bit.ly/WRAL_Cancer

Recalls:

- FoodSafety.org
- MedWatch:
shorturl.at/qBwgP
- fsis.usda.gov

NC Health News:

bit.ly/BBB_NC

Hurricanes:

ReadyNC.gov
nhc.noaa.gov

Trainings:

- Orientation:
shorturl.at/ynUWY
- Communications:
shorturl.at/LJHjg
- Governance Network:
shorturl.at/Xzvsj

**“The best way to find
yourself is to lose yourself
in the service of others.”**

— Mahatma Gandhi

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ANCBH.ORG**