

## Elon, Burlington align emergency orders with state

By Elizabeth Pattman

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As North Carolina moves into Phase 2 of reopening, Burlington and Elon have adapted their local state of emergency orders to meet current allowances. Graham, Mebane, Haw River and Gibsonville's earlier emergency orders have expired, and the municipalities are now following state orders.

Phase 2 went into effect at 5 p.m. Friday, May 22, allowing restaurants, personal care businesses and pools to open with limited occupancies, and lifting the stay-at-home order. The state has moved to a safer-at-home order, meaning vulnerable populations are encouraged to remain at home to limit exposure risk.

Elon announced earlier this week it will enforce the gathering limits laid out in Phase 2, and amended its emergency declaration to meet these guidelines. Indoor gatherings, except in businesses with other allowances, will be limited to 10 people, while outdoor gatherings can include up to 25 people.

"The Town of Elon reserves the right to adjust these limits as deemed necessary following a review of compliance. While we continue to fight the COVID-19 virus, we urge all residents to continue to wait 6 feet from others, wear a face covering, and wash your hands regularly," the town said.

Burlington had previously kept a more stringent state of emergency, requiring special provisions for car washes and funerals that were not included in the governor's executive orders. With amendments made to the state of emergency Friday, the city's declaration now aligns with state orders.

The restrictions on car washes, prohibiting employees from entering customer's cars, have been lifted, as have restrictions on the number of individuals at funerals and burials, and the number of individuals allowed at social gatherings. The city will now align itself with Executive Order 141.

City parks, marinas and Indian Valley Golf Course remain open, but organized play is still prohibited in the city. Indoor recreation facilities remain closed.

“As North Carolina continues to flatten the curve and cautiously moves into a modified Phase 2 of reopening, the city is allowing some provisions of its state of emergency to expire and relaxing others,” city officials said. “The framework of the state of emergency remains in place to allow city administration to respond quickly should changing conditions in Burlington necessitate corresponding action.”

