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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

1,665 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, January 11 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 1,655 reported cases of COVID-19. 245 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 1,420 cases, 1,383 to baseline health and 37 deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, January 11 there were 629,124 total cases of COVID-19, with 7,578 deaths, 7,611,324 completed tests and 3,843 hospitalized Statewide, as of Monday, January 4 there were 570,111 total cases of COVID-19, with 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 completed tests and 3,192 hospitalized. On Monday, December 7 there were 404,032 total cases of COVID-19, with 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 completed tests and 2,373 hospitalized. On November 2 there were 278,028 total cases of COVID-19, with 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 completed tests and 1,146 hospitalized. On October 5 there were 219,754 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 tests and 971 hospitalized.

Recent history in Anson County: March 31 - 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases; May 26 - 62 cases; June 22 - 107 cases; July 27 - 285 cases; August 3 - 306 cases; August 26 - 408 cases; September 4 - 461 cases; September 28 - 605 cases; October 5 - 649 cases; October 26 - 720 cases; November 2 - 738 cases; November 30 - 937 cases; December 7 - 1,029 cases; December 31 - 1,444 cases; January 4 - 1,524 cases.

Health Department Has Begun Phase 1b Covid-19 Vaccinations

The Anson County Health Department started Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccinations on Monday, January 11. This phase is for people 75 and older. If you haven't scheduled your vaccine please call 704-694-5188 option 1 and they will get you scheduled. Anson County Emergency Management assisted with the drive-thru clinic.

Phase 1b: Adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers. There is not enough vaccine for everyone in this phase to be vaccinated at the same time. Vaccinations will be available in the following order.

- Group 1:** Anyone 75 years or older regardless of medical condition or living situation. People do not have to have a chronic health condition.
- Group 2:** Health care and frontline essential workers who are 50 years of age or older.
- Group 3:** Frontline workers of any age and health care workers of any age, regardless of whether they work directly with COVID-19 patients. This phase is anticipated to begin in early January.

The CDC defines frontline essential workers as first responders (firefighters, police), education (child care, teachers, support staff), manufacturing, corrections officers, public transit, grocery store, food and agriculture, and US postal workers.

Anson County School District Update

This is a release from Anson County Schools: Anson County Schools has made the decision to continue with Plan C, which is 100 percent remote learning, for all Anson County students through Friday, January 29.

This decision was made due to the increase of community transmissions of COVID-19 and to keep our school family safe. All learning will continue remotely. If there are any further changes or updates, we will notify all students, parents and staff as soon as possible. As always, our priority will be the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

When in-person learning resumes on Monday, February 1, we will begin that week with Cohort A attending in-person February 1 - 4. (February 5 is a remote learning day for all students.)

An updated school calendar can be found at ansonschools.org for further clarification. Additionally, please note take-in and dismissal times for all schools below beginning February 1 for in-person students:

- Elementary Schools will take in students from 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. (tardy bell at 7:30 a.m.)
- Middle and High Schools will take in students from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. (tardy bell at 8:30 a.m.)
- Elementary Schools will dismiss students at 12:30 p.m.
- Middle and High Schools will students dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Anson County Partnership for Children is Closed to Public

This is a release from the Anson County Partnership for Children: In efforts to keep our community and staff safe during this time, the Anson County Partnership (ACPC) will be closed to the public for the remainder of January, with plans to reopen on February 1.

ACPC staff will be able to assist childcare providers and the community via phone and email. Community members can visit the Partnership's Facebook page or website (ansonchildren.org) for online resources regarding activities to do at home with your children, videos of children's stories being read aloud and more.

For questions or concerns please contact us at 704-694-4036.

Community Agribusiness Research Project "Local Food Questionnaire"

As our community continues to grow, it's important that we have a strong local food system that will benefit both farmers and consumers in our area. The N.C. Cooperative Extension in partnership with Wingate University is conducting a series of surveys for both consumers and producers in the local food system.

Please take 5-10 minutes to answer questions regarding your local food sales at the Farmers Market. This information will be used to help assess the needs of small farmers in our area and determine what step can be taken to support producers that sell directly to the public.

The survey can be found online at forms.gle/greMX6dYVoo3XBxV8 or the Anson County Cooperative Extension Facebook page.



First Exhibition Presented at New Anson County Arts Council Gallery

This is a release from the Anson County Arts Council: The Drake Gallery & Studio is proud to announce our first exhibition in the new gallery, Face Time by Michael J. Phillips. Please visit thedrakegallery.com to view this exhibition and hear from the artist on the inspiration for his show.

While this show will primarily remain virtual, private viewings may be arranged by appointment. Call 704.694.4950.

Phillips said, "Face Time was a special project of portraits centered around the Ansonia Theatre, the Anson County Arts Council, and friends. I wanted to paint the people that have been a positive contribution to my life in Anson County and the arts community. Unfortunately, I was not able to include everyone. I was a hairdresser for 45 years. The thing I've missed most in retirement is that visit with my client and talking with them, all while looking at them in a mirror. Observing bone structure, proportions, facial features, and coloring became second nature. My job then, as now, is to create something beautiful to look at. The Drake Gallery is located next door to the Arts Council, at 108 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Phillips is pictured in the middle of the collage, on the left.

Governor Cooper Extends Modified Stay At Home Order Amid Rising Case Counts

Modified Stay At Home Order extended as numbers continue to increase at alarming pace; 96 counties now designated as "red" or "orange."

North Carolina National Guard mobilized, other efforts underway to support vaccine distribution.

On Wednesday, January 6 Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen shared an update on North Carolina's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and support the vaccination effort currently underway.

Governor Cooper extended North Carolina's Modified Stay At Home Order that requires people to be at home from 10 pm - 5 am to last through at least Friday, January 29. Secretary Cohen also issued a Secretarial Directive with stark warnings for North Carolinians to avoid indoor spaces without masks and gatherings between households.

"We have turned the page on a new year - one that we're hoping will bring better times. But as we know, the virus didn't disappear at midnight on December 31," Governor Cooper said. "In fact, in North Carolina, we have seen some of our highest case counts, percent positives, hospitalizations and ICU bed usage numbers in the past few days. No matter where you live, work, worship or play, COVID-19 remains a deadly threat, and we must treat it that way."

"We are in a very dangerous position. North Carolinians need to take immediate actions to save lives, slow the spread of the virus, and protect hospital capacity so that medical care is available to anyone who may need it, whether for COVID-19 or for any other reason," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

Dr. Cohen also provided an update on North Carolina's COVID-19 County Alert System map. There are now 84 counties designated as red (critical community spread) and 12 counties that are yellow (substantial community spread). Anson County is designated as red.

Vaccine Efforts Underway Governor Cooper and Dr. Cohen also highlighted North Carolina's efforts to support the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Governor Cooper has mobilized approximately 50 North Carolina National Guard personnel to support NCDHHS and North Carolina Emergency Management. The Guard will assist with administering the vaccine and logistics support for local entities.

"As we work to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we are also helping local hospitals and health departments to support their vaccine efforts. Getting the vaccine out quickly is the most urgent priority right now, and we will use everything and everyone needed to get the job done," Governor Cooper said.

NCDHHS is onboarding more health care providers to administer the vaccine and sharing detailed guidance with providers to help them get the vaccine out more quickly. NCDHHS has also notified vaccine providers that future allocations will be based on how quickly they are able to get their supply out to eligible recipients. If an entity is not using their vaccine supply quickly enough or keeping the state database updated on their progress that will impact how much they are allocated going forward.

As the state moves into Phase 1b, local hospitals and other vaccine providers can now begin administering vaccines to those over age 75. Individuals should call their local health department or hospital to see if they have started to schedule vaccine appointments. In Anson County call the Health Department at 704-694-5188.

Finally, NCDHHS and the state of North Carolina continue to work with communities around the state who may be hesitant to accept the vaccine when it is their turn. Governor Cooper and Dr. Cohen underscored that this vaccine was authorized after independent health experts reviewed the data from tens of thousands of trial participants.

Learn About and Find NC Agricultural Products...and More

Got To Be NC is an initiative on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to promote North Carolina agricultural products and goods. Their mission is to promote and expand markets for North Carolina agricultural products both domestically and internationally in support of our state's \$85 billion plus food, fiber and forestry industries.

In 2005, the Goodness Grows in NC program was rebranded as Got To Be NC. From then to now, their work with North Carolina growers and agricultural organizations continues to raise the awareness and availability of North Carolina products to consumers both locally and around the world.

Check it out at gottobenc.com.

Get inspired by the flavors, colors, seasons and sounds of North Carolina with recipes and ideas for exploring our state's agricultural offerings. Discover how to experience North Carolina agriculture and recipes at gottobenc.com/inspiration.

County Offices, Town Halls Closed January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Emergency services and law enforcement will be in operation.

Commemorating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with Service

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will honor the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Saturday, January 16 and Monday, January 18 at 10 a.m. both days. These two days of celebration will be observed through service, with concerned citizens working together to continue cleaning up the Poplar Spring Baptist Church Historical Cemetery. The cemetery dates back to 1800s.

This commemoration and cleanup will be under the leadership of community leaders, Allen Jackson, David Perry and others. Those who serve on these days will be awarded for their support. Attendees are asked to please bring tools for working. The cemetery has grown up due to a lack of continued care, but together volunteers can make this a place for family members to come and visit the last earthly resting place of their loved ones.

Lunch will be provided afterward at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center on both days for all who attend.

BRLC Director Carol Smith said, "Will you come and help with this service project? Student groups as well as adult groups are encouraged to participate. We want to give a big thanks to each of you who have already given, whether prayers, leadership, monetary, physical labor, machinery use, etc."

Please call 704-826-8737 if you need more information. All donations made to this charitable organization are tax deductible.

Cemetery location: In the Burnsville Community at 183 Rocky Mount Church Road. Polkton, NC, across from the Poplar Spring Baptist Church.

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