

THE EXPRESS

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

1,957 Cases of COVID-19 in Anson

As of Monday, January 25 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 1,957 reported cases of COVID-19. 190 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 1,767 cases, 1,725 to baseline health and 42 deaths.

In a release the Health Department stated, "We are currently vaccinating Phase 1 (Frontline Healthcare Workers) and Phase 2 (Those 65 & Older). If you are interested in a vaccine, please call us at 704-694-5188 and press 1. Please note our call volume is very high, so if you do not reach a person, leave a voicemail and we will call you back. If you have already called and given your specific information to someone and currently fall within Phase 1 and 2, please know we will call you back and have your appointment scheduled within 1-2 weeks.

Please note that for more specific information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, January 25 there were 723,445 total cases of COVID-19, with 8,720 deaths, 8,500,479 completed tests and 3,287 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 completed tests and 971 hospitalized.

Recent history in Anson County: March 31 - 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases (no deaths); May 26 - 62 cases (1 death); June 22 - 107 cases (2 deaths); July 27 - 285 cases (2 deaths); August 3 - 306 cases (2 deaths); August 31 - 440 cases (4 deaths); September 4 - 461 cases (4 deaths); September 28 - 605 cases (4 deaths); October 5 - 649 cases (6 deaths); October 26 - 720 cases (9 deaths); November 2 - 738 cases (11 deaths); November 30 - 937 cases (14 deaths); December 7 - 1,029 cases (18 deaths); December 31 - 1,444 cases; (28 deaths) January 4 - 1,524 cases (28 deaths); January 15 - 1759 cases (39 deaths)

Health Dept. COVID Vaccine Update

At this time, the Anson County Health Department continues to vaccinate Group 1 and Group 2 per phasing schedule from the state. Anson County Health Director Dr. Fred Thompson doesn't anticipate the state moving to Group 3 for several weeks - maybe sometime in March or April. "We are pretty much done with Group 1, frontline health care workers, and are really focused on Group 2 - the 65 and over, at this point" he said.

Dr. Thompson continued, "The Health Department has about 1,200 people or so with reservations, and is getting hundreds of calls a day from people wanting to get their vaccine - which is good. We have been fortunate enough to get some volunteers from other county departments to assist us in answering the phones. Generally, we are able to get people scheduled within 2-3 weeks after they call, we get their information, add them to the Q if, and only if, we actually have the vaccine available. As reported on the news, the supply of vaccine is very limited at this time."

In order for an individual to get the vaccine they have to be registered in and approved by the state's online portal, the Covid Vaccine Management System (CVMS). When people call the Health Department, staff will get their info and upload it to CVMS. The state uses the CVMS to track the number of doses administered, who they were administered to, etc., and to report that info up to the federal government. That is where the federal government gets the stats that people see on the news about how many doses have been administered in different states, nationally, etc. When the Health Department gives people their shot it is documented in the CVMS that same day.

"At some point, people will be able to self-register in CVMS, which would be so helpful," Dr. Thompson said. "It is very labor intensive for the health department staff to have to register thousands of people into CVMS. I'm not sure when people will be able to self-register in CVMS, but I am really looking forward to that day."

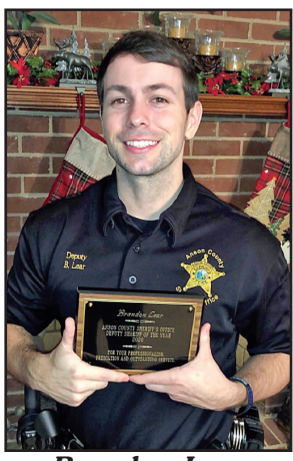
Dr. Thompson continued, "We are only scheduling 2-3 days out because the supply of vaccine is so unpredictable. We have enough vaccine for this week, but we won't know until late Friday how much we will get next week - if any. We don't want to schedule unless we know we will have vaccine for those who are scheduled. Too many places have scheduled weeks in advance and then had to turn around and cancel the appointments due to a lack of vaccine."

"They only sent us 100 first doses of the vaccine this week, and we are vaccinating 90 to 100 daily," Dr. Thompson said. "The only reason we have enough for this week is that the hospital (Atrium Health Anson) transferred 1,000 of their first doses to us as they have not yet started vaccinating the community in Anson - only their own staff at this point. Atrium Health is vaccinating community members in Mecklenburg, Union, etc. and hope to start in Anson in the next few weeks. That will be a big help. At this point the Health Department and the hospital are the only 'enrolled providers' in Anson County authorized by the state to give the vaccine. We hope that other entities, like ARMS, CVS, etc. will enroll and assist getting the vaccine out to the community over the next few months as the vaccines become widely available."

"We also got an allotment of 200 second doses this week (our very first 2nd dose allotment) and the Health Department will start giving people their 2nd dose this week. When people get their 1st dose, we schedule them for their 2nd dose before they leave. The state has promised us that we will have enough second doses for those that have received their first dose."

"We are going to set up a second drive-thru bay when we start giving the 2nd doses. One lane will be for first dose and one lane will be for second dose. It is the same vaccine, same amount, etc. but the doses are tracked separately, etc. so it will be easier, and it will allow us to schedule the first and second dose appointments at the same time."

Dr. Thompson concluded, "We are vaccinating at the Emergency Services Center, located at 2230 Country Club Road in Wadesboro. We vaccinate from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then again from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EMS has been a big help every day - we would not be able to vaccinate at the volumes we are without their ongoing support."



Brandon Lear



Mark Pankey



Ashley Ratliff

represent professionalism, dedication and perseverance. They have gone above and beyond their job expectations. The Sheriff's Office is privileged to have these exceptional employees representing Anson County.

Sheriff's Office Selects 2020 Officers of the Year

The Anson County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce their 2020 Officers of the Year Awards. The recipients are:

- Brandon Lear - Deputy of the Year
- Mark Pankey - Detention Officer of the Year
- Ashley Ratliff - Telecommunicator of the Year

Sheriff Landric Reid said, "These three officers

Schools Extend Plan C Remote Learning Until February 26

Anson County Schools has made the decision to continue with Plan C, which is 100 percent remote learning, for all Anson County Schools' students through Friday, February 26, 2021. This decision was made due to the increase of community transmissions of COVID-19, to keep our school family safe, and to allow teachers and staff the opportunity to receive the COVID vaccine prior to students returning to school.

All learning will continue remotely. If there are any further changes or updates, the school system will notify all students, parents and staff as soon as possible.

Superintendent Howard McLean said, "As always, our priority will be the safety and well-being of our students and staff."

When in-person learning resumes on Monday, March 1, schools will begin that week with Cohort A attending in-person March 1 to 4 (March 5 is a remote learning day for all students). Cohort B will attend March 8 to 11, and Cohort C will attend March 15 to 18.

An updated school calendar will be shared on the Anson County Schools website (www.ansonschools.org) and social media sites soon. Additionally, please note take-in and dismissal times for all schools below, beginning March 1 for in-person students:

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

Anson County Schools Now Offering Free Live Online Tutoring

The Anson County School District is excited to announce Brainfuse Tutoring Service! This tutoring service offers free live online tutoring. Brainfuse is available to all Anson County students from any computer with internet connection after 2:00 p.m. daily. Visit the Anson County Schools Facebook page to learn more and find the link.

• Live Tutoring Brainfuse's live tutoring offers personalized live assignment help in various subjects including math, science, reading, writing, and history. When participating in a Brainfuse tutoring session, you will meet virtually with a Brainfuse tutor who will help you understand the academic concept.

• Writing Lab Students also have the option of submitting a paper to the Brainfuse Writing Lab. The writing lab supports students during all phases of the writing process, with an emphasis on structure, voice, word choice, content, and sentence fluency.

• Academic Tools Students can access lessons and videos showing the process of arriving at correct answers for common problems and build skills on various academic topics. An extensive library of online flashcards are available to support learning.

How do I Utilize the Many tools that brainfuse offers? Students and their families can view the Brainfuse Tutorial which provides an overview of the available functions.

What is Brainfuse? Brainfuse provides an online platform where students can communicate with live tutors to support learning. The Brainfuse eLearning suite consists of live tutoring, a writing lab, academic tools, and collaboration tools. What are you waiting for? Set up a tutoring session for your child today!

How do I access brainfuse? Visit Anson County Schools Facebook page, or click the Brainfuse icon listed on the bottom of the www.ansonschools.org webpage. Students will be prompted to use their NCEdCloud ID to participate.

Connections Family Support Program

A Family Support and Community Collaboration Program of Sandhills Center MCO Serving Richmond and Anson Counties

This is a release from Suzanne Maness, Family Support Advocate with Sandhills Center: Sandhills Center Family Support and Community Collaboration Programs are programs funded by Sandhills Center (LME-MCO) in partnership with North Carolina Families United. These programs provide support to families with children who have emotional, behavioral and/or mental health challenges. For more information about Sandhills Center and NC Families United, please visit their websites at www.sandhillscenter.org and www.ncfamiliesunited.org.

Connections Family Support Program offers: Resources & Referrals • Educational opportunities for families and professionals • Family Support Groups • Trainings & Workshops • Assistance and information for parents interacting with agencies serving children

Connections Family Support Program strives to bring quality resources and educational opportunities to families and professionals in Richmond and Anson Counties. Our program empowers and educates those to access the knowledge, training, and treatment options available within their community so that they can receive appropriate services.

We offer monthly support group meetings to allow families and caregivers a chance to meet, voice their concerns, and learn from each other. Currently, our monthly support group meetings are being held virtually via WebEx due to COVID-19. However, mental health articles and fact sheets relating to mental health topics are available upon request. We provide phone support as well. If you would like more information, please call toll free at 877-211-5995 or email connectionsfsp@gmail.com.

We also offer monthly workshops to assist families and professionals with emotional and educational development. These workshops are informative and designed to address the needs in the community. Currently, our workshops (webinars) are being held virtually. All of our webinars are free and open to the public. Our current webinars with dates and times are announced through local newspapers, flyers, and our quarterly newsletter.

As a family support advocate, I can assist parents and caregivers with IEP preparation and any resources or information related to mental health that they may need for their child. I welcome the opportunity to assist your group or agency if there is an interest about a specific mental health topic. Please call me toll free at 877-211-5995 or email connectionsfsp@gmail.com for more information or to schedule a virtual presentation.

- Sandhills Center / www.sandhillscenter.org
- NC Families United / www.ncfamiliesunited.org

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

NC 211 Releases New Video Providing Guidance On How to Use 211's Website and Telephone Help Line

NC 211 is excited to share the new "How To" video, which guides individuals through the process of calling 2-1-1 and searching for resources on nc211.org.

Finding help can be overwhelming and many do not know what to expect from a call to 2-1-1 or realize that they can search the 2-1-1 database for programs and services in their area. This video provides detailed information to make the process easier to understand and help North Carolinians find the resources they need. Find the video at nc211.org/2020/12/14/nc-211-how-to-video.

Young Professionals Anson 2021 Kick-Off

Looking for a great group to be a part of? Join YP Anson for their virtual 2021 Kick-Off. It will be held today, Wednesday, January 27 at 6 p.m.

RSVP to Shelby Emrich at semrich@ansoncounty-chamber.org or email Caty Edwards at caty@plankroadrealty.com to receive the Zoom link and login information.

The mission for Young Professionals Anson is to provide an environment for individuals between the ages of 21 to 39 to meet and develop both socially and professionally.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets February 2

Public restricted from attending, encouraged to view live-stream.

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2 at 6 p.m. This meeting will be live-streamed from the Boardroom.

In adherence to Federal, State, and Anson County Health Department guidelines, citizens are restricted from attending this meeting to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but are strongly encouraged to view the meeting online.

Citizens may participate with questions and/or concerns by sending an email to questions@co.anson.nc.us.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

Mobile Food Scheduled for February 3 is Cancelled

The Anson and East Union Missional Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry that was scheduled for Wednesday, February 3 at Wingate United Methodist Church has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. They apologize for the inconvenience this cancellation causes.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com