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2,258 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, February 22 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,258 reported cases of COVID-19. 59 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 2,199 cases, 2,146 to baseline health and 53 deaths.

Please note that the Health Department will begin vaccinating teachers today, Wednesday, February 24.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, February 22 there were 844,770 total cases of COVID-19, with 10,934 deaths, 9,964,355 completed tests and 1,567 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of Monday, February 15 there were 824,352 total cases of COVID-19, with 10,501 deaths, 9,660,088 completed tests and 1,941 hospitalized. February 1 there were 761,302 total cases of COVID-19, with 9,342 deaths, 8,908,258 completed tests and 2,781 hospitalized. January 25 - 723,445 cases of COVID-19, 8,720 deaths, 8,500,479 completed tests and 3,287 hospitalized. January 4 - 570,111 cases of COVID-19, 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 completed tests and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7 - 404,032 cases of COVID-19, 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 completed tests and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2 - 278,028 cases of COVID-19, 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 completed tests and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5 - 219,754 cases of COVID-19, 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 25 - 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 1 - 2,056 cases (45 deaths); February 15 - 2,220 (52 deaths).

Essence Davis is Anson Middle School Spelling Bee Champ



Essence Davis, the Anson Middle School Spelling Bee champ, is also the Anson County Schools Spelling Bee champion! She will represent Anson County in Charlotte. Essence, we are so proud of you!

Anson High School Varsity Football Game Moved to Thursday Night

The Anson Varsity football game has been rescheduled to this Thursday, February 25 at 6 p.m.

Football tickets are: 2 tickets per senior participant; 1 ticket per underclassman participant; and no more than 2 tickets per family.

The spectator list will be finalized by 8 p.m. on Wednesday night before the game. That list will be final and any names that do not match will not be admitted on game day.

The game will be live-streamed on the AHS Facebook page.

School's Resume In-Person Classes on Monday, March 1

The Board of Education approved a Re-entry Plan I at their regular meeting. In this plan, in-person students in grades K-13 will return to school on March 1. Please review the plan for more details.

Section B of the student dress code was waived meaning there is no requirement for uniforms for the semester.

Cohort Re-Entry Plan *

- Kindergarten - Students may attend daily or elect to attend with an assigned cohort.
- Grades 1-13 - Exceptional Children who receive academic support, English Language Learners, and School Employee Children (school aged): Attend Weekly (M-Th)
- Grades 1-13 - Grouped in two rotating weekly cohorts, A, B.
- ***Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may elect for students to attend 100% virtually.**
- **Grade K-5 Students** In-person instruction will take place Monday - Thursday, with Fridays being remote for all learners. The district will deep clean all facilities on Fridays to safely prepare for the transition of student cohorts.
- K-5 schools will operate on a modified day 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Student drop off time is 7-7:30. Students are tardy at 7:30.
- K-5 schools will conduct health screenings, provide breakfast, small group, interventions, and lessons from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- K-5 teachers will stream lessons for in-person, remote cohorts, and 100% virtual students from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch will also be served during this time.
- In-person cohorts will depart from school at 12:30 p.m.
- K-5 teachers will provide additional instructional support, office hours, and remote instruction from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- ***School specific schedules vary based on unique needs.**
- **Grade 6-13 Students** In-person instruction will take place Monday - Thursday with Fridays being remote for all learners. The district will deep clean all facilities on Fridays to safely prepare for the transition of student cohorts.
- 6-13 will operate on a modified day 8:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Student drop off time is 8-8:15. Students are tardy at 8:15.
- Schools will conduct health screenings, provide breakfast, and instructional support upon arrival.
- 6-13 teachers will provide in-person instruction for in-person students from 8:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch will also be served during this time.
- In-person cohorts will depart from school at 1:30 p.m.
- 6-13 teachers will provide additional instructional support, office hours, and remote instruction for off campus cohorts and 100% virtual students from 2:00 - 3:55 p.m.
- ***School specific schedules vary based on unique needs**

Fundraiser & Auction to Replace Annual 4-H Clover Crawl Social

Clover Crawl is a highly anticipated event that mixes socialization, good food, and good music to accompany the annual Anson County 4-H fundraiser. Unfortunately, a social gathering is not feasible this year. To preserve the festivity and spirit associated with Clover Crawl, the 4-H Clover Crawl Social will be postponed until 2022.

This year's event will be replaced with a 4-H Fundraising Campaign and auction. Items being auctioned include a custom gift basket beautifully prepared by Michael Horne Florist and Gifts, a Four Branches Shooting Preserve package for up to four participants, and two tickets for the 2022 4-H Clover Crawl Social!

Funds raised during the 2021 4-H Fundraiser Campaign will be used to support ongoing 4-H programs in Anson County. You can bid online at this website: sites.google.com/ncsu.edu/ansoncounty4-hauction/home.

If you would like to support the 4-H Fundraiser Campaign, checks can be made payable to Anson County 4-H, PO Box 633, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

For more information about this event and 4-H please contact Samuel Cole, 4-H Agent at 704-694-2915.



NC Insurance Commissioner Urges Caution for Portable Heaters During Winter Weather

State Fire Marshal saddened that family's mobile home burned down

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey has urged North Carolinians to use an extra measure of caution, especially when using portable heaters during the winter season. Unfortunately, portable heaters can ignite, as one did in Moore County Thursday, where the family escaped but lost their home.

"I'm glad the family escaped their mobile home fire safely, but am saddened that the family lost everything in the blaze," said Commissioner Causey, who is also the State Fire Marshal. "I hope families who use portable heaters will use an extra measure of caution to protect themselves as we get through the winter months."

According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating is the leading cause of fires in U.S. homes, with nearly 90% of home heating fire deaths involving stationary or portable space heaters.

Commissioner Causey offered these tips for home heating during the winter months:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container, placed on a non-combustible area and stored a safe distance away from your home.
- When using a space heater, always plug it into a wall outlet.

Please visit YouTube and search for this video (*Electrical Heater Live Fire Demo*) to see how fast a portable heater can turn into a tragic fire when not used properly.

NCDHHS to Continue to Provide Extra Help Buying Food for Approximately 860,000 Children Through P-EBT

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with NC Department of Public Instruction today announced it will begin issuing additional benefits on Feb. 19, 2021 through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. These benefits will be received over several days starting Friday for those who already have an EBT card for Food and Nutrition Services or P-EBT benefits.

The P-EBT program helps families purchase food for children whose access to free and reduced-price meals at school has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides a benefit on an EBT card that can be used to buy food at authorized food and grocery retailers, including most major grocery stores.

"Having enough healthy food every day is an essential part of children's health and well-being," said NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Human Services Tara Myers. "The P-EBT program provides families essential help buying groceries for children who would normally have access to free and reduced lunch at school."

Families do not need to apply for P-EBT. Eligibility criteria are based on requirements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A school-aged child is eligible if their school participates in the National School Lunch Program and the student is eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals during the 2020-21 school year. Also, the student's school must have been closed or has been operating with reduced attendance for at least five consecutive days during the 2020-2021 school year as a result of COVID-19. The student must also be learning in a fully remote (all virtual) and or in a hybrid (combination of virtual and in-person) learning mode during the month. An eligible student can receive one of two distinct benefit amounts depending on if they are identified as being in a remote learning mode or a hybrid learning mode.

P-EBT benefits received in February 2021 will be for the months of August to December 2020 for those students who are eligible. Those who do not have a P-EBT card and are eligible during these months should anticipate receiving their cards in February or March. The total amount of P-EBT benefits put on a card will not be received at one time; benefits will be spread out over several days to avoid overwhelming those stores that accept EBT. P-EBT benefits will be issued retroactively in a monthly issuance starting in March as long as the child remains eligible.

Eligible families already receiving FNS benefits can expect to receive the P-EBT benefit on their existing EBT card. Families who already have a P-EBT card from last school year and are eligible under the new criteria can expect to receive the benefit on their original P-EBT card. Eligible families who do not have an FNS or P-EBT card will be mailed a card.

If someone has lost or destroyed their original P-EBT card, they can order a new card at www.ebtedge.com, on the EBT Edge mobile app or by contacting the North Carolina EBT Call Center at 1-866-719-0141. P-EBT benefits are entirely federally funded. More information about the P-EBT program can be found at www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT. For the latest information on COVID-19, visit nc.gov/covid19.

Individuals with questions about applying for free or reduced-price meals should contact their children's school for more information.

Returning to School During COVID-19

How should I prepare my kids who are going back to school during COVID-19?

Talk with your child about how school will look different (e.g., desks far apart from each other, teachers maintaining physical distance, possibility of staying in the classroom for lunch). Talk with your child about how school is going and about interactions with classmates and teachers.

Find out how your child is feeling and communicate that what they may be feeling is normal. Anticipate behavior changes in your child. Find out more at cdc.gov/coronavirus.

What are the guidelines for schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Encourage social distancing of at least 6 feet between staff and students in all areas of the facility such as work-out areas, classrooms, pools, courts, walking/running tracks, locker rooms, parking lots, and in entrance/exit areas.

Encourage social distancing during all workout activities. Consider making foot-traffic unidirectional in narrow or confined areas, such as aisles and stairwells, to encourage single-file movement at a distance of 6 feet or more.

Find out more at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

More available resources

- childmind.org/backtoschool
- www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-to-help-children-transition-school-closures-coronavirus
- www.aota.org/backtoschool
- families.togetherinc.org/teaching-transition-skills-during-covid-19

Honoring Local African American History, Diverse Cultural Awareness

On Thursday, February 25, Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center volunteers invite you to be a part of this special meeting. At 1 p.m., any individuals with information about loved ones who have been laid to rest at the Poplar Spring Church Original Cemetery are invited to come and share your information.

Julia Lasure, an intern student at Wingate University who is acquiring a degree in History will gather information of family members buried in the cemetery.

On Sunday, February 28 at 5:00 p.m. friends and relatives from the Burnsville Community are asked to bring a picture or item of their ancestor which will be placed on display.

During the Sunday's session guests will have the opportunity to speak for 10 minute about their ancestor. Each guest will also share how that individual impacted their life. This is the beginning of continuing to know your neighbors.

BRLC wishes to thank all volunteers and supporters for your kindness. Together, neighbors help local neighbors. Social Distancing and masks are required.

Community Outreach Offers Household Items Free on Saturday

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Community Outreach Event this Saturday, February 27 at 10 a.m. They will be giving out free household items and paper products on a first come, first served basis.

The event will be held at 118 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for the event, please call 843-623-3777. The website is www.logomchurch.com.

Free Groceries for Families in Need March 2

Food Pantry is drive-thru in the afternoon

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missionary Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Tuesday, March 2 at Marshville First Baptist Church, located at 636 Old Highway 74 in Marshville. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, between 9 to 9:30 a.m.

- Be sure to bring your own bags, baskets, boxes or carts to carry your food.
- Arrive between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to be sure you can receive food.
- If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445.
- You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email tschumpert@wnc-cumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

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.