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

## 2,404 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, March 22 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,404 reported cases of COVID-19. 41 of those cases were active and 56 deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, March 22 there were 1,248 new cases of COVID-19, with 11,836 deaths and 924 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of Monday, March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths, 10,291,482 tests and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths, 8,908,258 tests, 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 tests, 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 tests, 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 tests, 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 tests, 971 hospitalized.

**Recent history in Anson County:** March 31, 2020: 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 31: 440 cases (4 deaths); September 28: 605 cases (4 deaths); October 26: 720 cases (9 deaths); November 30: 937 cases (14 deaths); December 31: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25: 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 22: 2,258 (53 deaths); March 1: 2,298 cases (53 deaths); March 8: 2,342 cases (54 deaths); March 15: 2,388 cases (54 deaths).

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov).

## Drive-Through COVID 19 Shots in the Burnsville Community March 26

Atrium Health Care, Anson Faith Based Outreach Ministry, the Burnsville Community, the Ansonville Community and others have collaborated to ensure all community citizens get vaccinated against Covid.

On Friday, March 26 the Burnsville Fire Station on Highway 742 North is the location for this needed service. The time is 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Volunteers will be there to help direct the drive thru traffic as well as walk thru. You do not need to have an appointment or identification to get your vaccination.

BRLC neighbors who receive their first shot on March 26 will need to come back for the second dose on April 23. The process will be the same on April 23. All adult citizens who are eligible and have not gotten the Covid shot under the present guidelines are encouraged to participate in this community outreach.

There is no cost to you. Waiting time may vary depending on site staff and adults in cars to be vaccinated. For more information call 704-468-8888.

## Writers' Club Announces 2020 Prose and Poetry Contest Winners

The Anson County Writers' Club is pleased to announce the winners of its 2020 contests in prose and poetry. Winners received certificates suitable for framing and cash prizes totalling \$220. The winning entries will be included in the anthology, Anson Pathways (2029, 2020, and 2021) that will be released early in 2022.

- **Adult Prose:** Kelly Liddington, Polkton, first place for "My Grandfather's Barn;" Charles Kaska, Heath Springs, S.C., second place for "Dog Days of Summer;" and Valerie Ingram, Wadesboro, third place for "Fran and Chris."
- **Adult Poetry:** Kaye Ratliff, first place for "A Female Biker Considers Therapy;" Sandy Bruney, second place for "A Warning About Fairies;" and Airyn Grey Jones, third place for "October 24." All are from Wadesboro.
- **High School Poetry:** Zoha Ali, Wadesboro, first place for "He Follows."

For information about the Anson County Writers' Club, please visit [www.ansoncountywritersclub.org](http://www.ansoncountywritersclub.org).

## Holy Week Services Offered by Inter-Church Council Next Week

Holy Week, March 29 - April 2, will be observed in churches throughout the county. There is no more significant week in the church calendar. The Inter-Church Council of Wadesboro invites the public to participate in any or all of several services planned for the special week. During this time of social distancing, Middy Lenten Services will be posted online at:

[www.facebook.com/WadesboroInterChurchCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/WadesboroInterChurchCouncil).

Services will be pre-recorded and posted on the new Inter-Church Council Facebook page at 12:00 noon.

### Hosting churches include:

- Monday, March 29 - First United Methodist Church
- Tuesday, March 30 - First Baptist Church
- Wednesday, March 31 - Sacred Heart Catholic Church & First Presbyterian Church
- Friday, April 2 - Calvary Episcopal Church

On Thursday, April 1 First United Methodist combining with First Presbyterian will also host a Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm. The service will be in-person at First Methodist but will also be streamed live on the Facebook pages of both churches.

First Baptist Church will host a Tenebrae Service on Friday, April 2 at 7:00 pm. The service of shadows will be offered in person at the church.

Also, Calvary Episcopal will have Morning Prayer throughout the week at 10:00 am, broadcast on their church's Facebook page.

Easter Sunrise Service will be livestreamed on Sunday morning, April 4 at 7:00 am from the Presbyterian Garden on the Inter-Church Council Facebook page. The video will remain posted for later viewing as well. Calvary Episcopal Church is in charge of this year's service.

As churches and religious organizations across the county observe their most sacred time of the year, everyone is invited to tune in, attend or both.

The Inter-Church Council of Wadesboro welcomes everyone to remember and celebrate Holy Week in any of these many services.



## Bryce Wilson Accepted Into Georgia Military College

Bryce Wilson, former commander of the Anson High School JROTC Bearcat Battalion, has been accepted to the University of North Georgia. Bryce was selected from an "extraordinarily accomplished and academically talented group of applicants."

The University of North Georgia (UNG) is one of only six Senior Military Colleges in the US and is the Military College of Georgia. With a strong heritage of developing leaders, UNG has produced 50 General military officers. UNG offers a wide variety of disciplines and programs including a military officer commissioning program through its senior ROTC program.

Bryce is a 2020 graduate of Anson High School, and was a four-year JROTC cadet. He served in several leadership positions, from squad leader to battalion commander. He plans are to complete a four-year degree and earn an Army commission.

He is the son of Kim and Jeremy Wilson of Wadesboro.

## Virtual Community Helper Tour for Children

Calling All Community Helpers! The Anson County Partnership for Children is creating a virtual community helpers tour for Anson County children. If you are a volunteer fire department, a school, police department, local government agency, a nonprofit, etc. committed to keeping children and families safe, we want our children to know you. Help the Partnership create this tour by submitting a picture or video for the tour. Videos should be less than 10 seconds.

The submission requirements are:

- High-quality picture or video (NO one likes grainy or blurry pictures)
- Take the picture in front of your organization's building (So kids can see the building)
- Include one or more community helper (So kids might recognize your faces if ever in need)
- Include the tagline: We keep children safe by... (tell what your organization does)!

The tagline: We keep children safe by... (tell what your organization does)! can be expressed in many ways. For pictures, participants can include a sign with the tagline. For video submission, a spokesperson can say the tagline (only the specific tagline, please) or hold a sign.

To submit your photos or videos, upload to Google Drive and share the folder with [ansonpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:ansonpartnership@gmail.com). The deadline to submit material for the community helpers virtual tour is Friday, April 9.

This is a Raising a Reader Parent Involvement initiative and will be posted on the Partnership's YouTube page for public viewing in April as part of the Month of the Young Child.

Contact the Partnership for more information at 704-694-4036.



## Anson Schools Re-Entry Plan Announcement

The Anson County Board of Education held a special called meeting on Monday, March 22 and approved Plan A for grades K-5 in-person students that will allow K-5 in-person students to attend school four days per week, every week effective Monday, March 29. Fridays will continue to be a remote learning day for all students. You can refer to the updated re-entry plan at the link below on our website for more details.

- Grades 6-13 in-person students will remain on the current Plan B (two rotational cohorts) schedule.
- Families will continue to have the option of Plan C (full remote learning) for their students. However, Plan B (two rotational cohorts) for grades K-5 in-person students will no longer be an option.
- An updated school calendar for K-5 students (Plan A) and an updated calendar for 6-13 students (Plan B) can be found at the links below.
- Additionally, the board approved March 24 and 25 as virtual learning days due to a large portion of staff receiving their second vaccination those days and to allow our K-5 schools to prepare to open in Plan A on Monday, March 29, 2021.

**Updated Re-Entry Plan Grade K-5 Students - PLAN A** Plan A, in-person instruction, will take place Monday - Thursday with Fridays being remote for all learners. The district will deep clean all facilities on Fridays.

- ♦ K-5 schools will operate on a modified day 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- ♦ Student drop off time is from 7:00 - 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.
- ♦ All K-5 students (in-person and virtual) will receive direct instruction from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch will also be served during this time.
- ♦ In-person students 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 may vary based on unique needs.

**Grade 6-13 Students - PLAN B** Plan B, in-person instruction, will take place Monday - Thursday with Fridays being remote for all learners. The district will continue to utilize a two-cohort rotational model as reflected in the district calendar. The district will deep clean all facilities on Fridays to safely prepare for the transition of student cohorts.

- ♦ 6-13 schools will operate on a modified day 8:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- ♦ Student drop off time is from 8:00 - 8:15. Students are tardy at 8:15.
- ♦ 6-13 schools will conduct health screenings, provide breakfast, and instructional support upon arrival.
- ♦ 6-13 teachers will provide direct instruction for in-person students from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will also be served during this time.
- ♦ In-person students 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 cohort students and virtual students) from 2:00 - 3:55 p.m.

\*School specific schedules may vary based on unique needs.

Links to the Updated Re-Entry Plan, Plan A Calendar (Grades K-5) and Plan B Calendar (Grades 6-13) are available at [ansonschools.org](http://ansonschools.org).

## Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program throughout the year, even during the pandemic. Normally they distribute coats and blankets to several of the churches and schools in Anson County as well as directly to those people in need. For now, if you or someone in your household needs a coat, children and adults, call Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or 704-294-0480 and tell her what you need. She will deliver the coat to you.

Do you have a coat or blanket that you can contribute to this cause? Or, would you like to make a donation in support of this important charity? Please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or 704-294-0480.

## Trends Continue to Stabilize as COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Opens for Some Members of Group 4

**People with high-risk medical conditions or who live in certain congregate settings now eligible for vaccination**

Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. gave an update on the state's current data, trends and vaccination progress. Last Wednesday, March 17 marked the opening of vaccine eligibility for people who have a medical condition that puts them at higher risk for severe illness or who live in certain congregate settings.

"With more students in the classroom and millions of people receiving vaccines, there is hope on the horizon," said Governor Cooper. "But with this virus and its variants continuing to spread, it is too early to let our guard down."

North Carolina continues to focus on distributing vaccines quickly and equitably. The state has administered over 3.4 million doses. 25.7 percent of those 18 and up is at least partially vaccinated, and 16.5 percent of those 18 and up have been fully vaccinated.

The state is also seeing progress in its continued efforts to emphasize equity in vaccine distribution. Today, the CDC released a report that puts North Carolina among the top ten states in the nation for equitable vaccine distribution.

"We are committed to using every lever we have to ensure that historically marginalized populations can easily access a COVID-19 vaccine - that includes how we allocate vaccines, who we allocate vaccines to, which events we can support, where we deploy state resources, and who we engage on the ground to help address barriers like transportation and internet access," said Secretary Cohen.

Gov. Cooper and Sec. Cohen also discussed state health officials' ongoing efforts to monitor the presence of COVID-19 variants and stressed the importance of continuing with safety precautions across the state. Recent data shows an increase in these more contagious variants among those infected in North Carolina. People should continue to protect themselves and those around them by practicing the Three Ws—wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart, and wash hands often.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)