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

## Anson County Has First COVID-19 Positive Test Case

This is a release from the Anson County Health Department: An Anson County resident who tested positive for COVID-19 is being monitored and following isolation orders in Anson County. The test was conducted by Atrium Health. The patient is doing well and is in isolation. She was a contact to a known case of COVID-19, and was not an unknown transmission case.

Anson County Public Health is following Centers for Disease Controls (CDC) guidelines to protect public health and limit the spread of infection. The Anson County Health Department is working to identify close contacts of the individual who tested positive. The CDC defines close contact as being within approximately 6 feet of a person with an infection with COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time of 10 minutes or longer.

Because COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, North Carolinians should take the same measures that health care providers recommend to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses. This involves including washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, staying home if you are sick, and covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like Anson County Public Health, CDC, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). For more information, please visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and NCDHHS website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus), which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

Anson County Public Health regularly updates its Facebook page with accurate and current information regarding COVID-19, and the public is encouraged to check the Health Department's Facebook page for up-to-date information.

**Symptoms for COVID-19** are fever, cough, and other lower respiratory illness (shortness of breath). If you believe that you may have COVID-19, please call the COVID-19 hotline at 1-866-462-3821.

For more information please contact Anson County Communicable Disease Nurse, Kristy Ratliff Davis, at (704) 994-3355

## Reduced Scheduling For Anson County Offices

With the statewide shelter-in-place order from the Governor, Anson County has implemented the following operational changes effective Monday, March 30, and tentatively resuming normal operational hours on Monday, April 20. See below:

- The following non-public safety government functions will close their doors to the public starting Monday, March 30 and implementing department specific reduced scheduling plans:
- The Government Center will close to the public. Services will be rendered via email, telephone, or appointment,
- Register of Deeds is restricting service to electronic correspondence and appointments,
- The Library will remain closed to the public,
- Cooperative Extension will remain closed to the public,
- The Animal Shelter will remain closed to the public, not intake animals nor deliver animals to Rescues,
- The Veterans Office will remain closed to the public but respond to clients via telephone and email,
- Elderly Services has suspended activities will deliver Congregate food and maintain Home Delivery,
- Parks and Recreation programming is canceled indefinitely, however Little Park remains open,
- Soil & Water will remain closed to the public but provide service via appointments.
- Human Services (ACTS, DSS, and the Health Department) will continue to limit public interaction to the greatest extent possible.

## Wadesboro's Most Recent Release Detailing the Town's Actions for COVID-19

This press release from David Edwards, Wadesboro Town Manager, is dated March 30, 2020: Our country is still dealing with the ever-increasing impacts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and though Anson County has still not reported any confirmed cases, the threat to our community is as real as ever. The Town of Wadesboro will always strive to serve our community effectively while balancing the safety and health of our employees as a top priority. To that end, on March 16 and March 20 we announced several measures being implemented to help with that, and effective immediately the following is a comprehensive list of actions being taken:

- Town Hall will be limited to a drive-thru only operation and will be closing on Fridays until further notice. All utility bills can be paid Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m. by using either the drive-thru or calling Town Hall for payment via phone at (704) 694-5171. The outside drop box is also still available 24/7 for your convenience.
- Public entrances to the Police and Fire Stations will be closed until further notice. Please call (704) 694-2167 for information on how to access police reports, accident reports, etc. These services will be pickup only and should be arranged in advance via phone.
- Garbage collection will remain on normal operation, no schedule changes are anticipated at this time. However, limb, leaf, and furniture pickup will be suspended until further notice.
- All Town parks will continue to remain open and available at this time. However, all playground equipment and public restrooms are closed and we will not be renting park shelters for public gatherings until further notice.
- Cut-off for nonpayment of utility bills is suspended until further notice. Please note – all usage will still be billed and due as normal, and cut-off will resume at some point in the near future. At that time to be determined by Council the full balance due will be required to avoid cut-off.
- Any further changes to Town services or operating conditions will be communicated via the Town's website ([townofwadesboro.org](http://townofwadesboro.org)) and our Facebook page.



(Republican-Secretary) Annie Parson (Democrat) Sherika Staton (Democrat) and now Reynolds (Republican). Reynolds has served in various capacities with the Anson County Board of Elections, including Precinct Chief Judge, Precinct Judge, Early Voting staff and Part-Time office staff. She brings over 20+ years of experience working with elections in Anson County. She lives in the Burnsville Community with her husband Richard.

## Board of Elections Swears in New Board Member Bonnie Reynolds

This is a release from the Anson County Board of Elections: On Tuesday, March 25 Anson County Board of Elections Chairman James Paxton swore in a new Republican member to the Anson County Board of Elections. Bonnie Reynolds joins the board to serve until June 2021. Reynolds was nominated by Anson County Republican Chair Charles Horton, and was approved by the NC State Board of Elections.

Reynolds joins the board to fill the term of retiring Republican Board member Rochelle Williams. Williams stepped away due to health.

Currently there are five board members, with the majority being the party of the NC Governor. They are James Paxton (Democrat-Chair) Tracy Baynard

## Residents Asked to Reconsider Burning Yard Debris

Due to spring wildfire season and COVID-19 pandemic

N.C. Forest Service officials urge citizens to reconsider burning yard debris through the end of May, which historically marks the end of spring wildfire season in North Carolina. Consider alternatives to burning. Some types of debris, such as leaves, grass and stubble, may be of more value if they are not burned but used for mulch instead.

"In North Carolina, most wildfires are caused by human action and careless debris burning. When left unattended, debris burns can escape, igniting tragic wildfires," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Minimizing the number of escaped debris burns will reduce the risk of wildfires while also reducing the risk of community exposure to COVID-19 by allowing first responders to limit close-contact interactions and maintain social distance."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the N.C. Forest Service continues mission critical work such as wildfire suppression and other emergency response functions.

For tips to protect property, prevent wildfires or to access the Online Burning Permit System, visit [ncforestservice.gov](http://ncforestservice.gov).

## Governor Roy Cooper Announces Statewide Stay at Home Order Until April 29 to Slow Spread of COVID-19

Essential businesses may remain open, social distancing mandated

On Friday, March 27 Governor Roy Cooper ordered people in the state of North Carolina to stay at home for thirty days, until April 29, 2020, in another step to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 121 took effect on Monday, March 30 at 5:00 p.m. and reduces the size of gatherings to 10 people. The Order provides for essential businesses to continue to operate while prioritizing social distancing measures. The Order has the force of law and will be enforced in all 100 counties statewide.

"To continue our aggressive battle against COVID-19, I have signed a Stay at Home Order for the entire state of North Carolina. Though it is difficult we must do this to slow the disease spread," said Governor Cooper. "We need our medical system to be able to care for the friends and family we know will become seriously ill from the virus."

The Governor noted today that three North Carolinians have died due to COVID-19 and the state has 763 confirmed cases of the virus in 60 counties. He called on all North Carolinians to protect themselves by staying home and following social distancing guidelines. North Carolina is now considered to have widespread transmission of the virus, which means people who have tested positive cannot trace where they were exposed to the virus.

The Order directs people to stay at home except to visit essential businesses, to exercise outdoors or to help a family member. Specifically, the order bans gatherings of more than 10 people and directs everyone to physically stay at least six feet apart from others.

"I know this order may lead to even more hardship and heartache. Although we are physically apart, we must take this step together in spirit," Governor Cooper said.

The Governor's full order is available at [governor.nc.gov](http://governor.nc.gov).

Unless noted in the order, previous closures and orders stand as written as do local government orders in cities and counties. Frequently Asked Questions about the Order can be also be found at [governor.nc.gov](http://governor.nc.gov).

If you do not think your business is included in the essential services list, and you think it should be, you may apply online at the NC Department of Revenue to be designated essential at [www.ncdor.gov](http://www.ncdor.gov). Until your exemption is reviewed, you may operate as long as your business can accommodate social distancing in your workplace.

For more information about health recommendations and who is designated at high risk for becoming seriously ill, please visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus).

## Families to Receive Enhanced Benefits to Ensure Food Access

To help families access food during the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is temporarily increasing benefits for March 2020 and April 2020 to current Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recipients in North Carolina. NCDHHS received federal authority to implement the program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on March 27.

"People need to be able to feed their families while also practicing good social distancing and following the governor's stay at home order. This will help families make fewer trips to the grocery store and help protect themselves and those in their communities from getting sick," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D.

All families that receive FNS will receive the maximum amount allowed for March 2020 and April 2020 for their household size. For example, a family of four would be eligible to receive a total of \$646 for each of the two months regardless of their usual benefit amount. The increase is subject to the following guidelines:

- Households that have already received the maximum amount for their household size will not receive the temporary increase.
- The household size will not include ineligible or disqualified members.
- Households that were ineligible in either March 2020 or April 2020 will not receive a temporary increase for the month(s) they were ineligible.

Approximately 360,000 households will begin receiving the temporary increased benefit on their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card on April 1 and April 22. They will be randomly generated and staggered every other workday until all eligible households have received their temporary increase.

Recipients will continue to receive their regular benefits and should be aware they will receive two separate payments for March and two for April.

To check availability of benefits families should:

- Call 1-888-622-7328.
- Visit [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com). Click on More Information under EBT Cardholders.
- Download the ebtEDGE mobile app. The app is available as a free download on the Apple Store and Google Play.

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, NCDHHS has also received approval to extend FNS certification periods so that beneficiaries don't have to visit county Social Services offices to qualify for continued services.

In addition, with many businesses closing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents are being temporarily and partially suspended. All eligible beneficiaries are being notified of this change.

Questions about the emergency supplements and the FNS program should be directed to the EBT Call Center at 1-866-719-0141.

Families and individuals who do not currently receive benefits can apply online with ePass: [www.nc.gov/services/e-pass](http://www.nc.gov/services/e-pass).

## Board of Education Budget Development Workshop Postponed

The Anson County Board of Education's budget development workshop which was originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date in April.

## Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament Rescheduled

The 7th Annual Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament, sponsored by Gum Springs Baptist Church Youth, has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 6. The event will take place at Twin Valley Country Club with a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information call Lynn Whitlock at 704-695-2200.

## Annual Charity Motorcycle Ride Rescheduled

The Misfit Bikers will hold their 4th Annual Charity Ride to benefit Operaton Christmas Child on Saturday, July 18. The ride was originally set for this Saturday, April 4.

For more information call Kevin at 704-475-0487, Mark at 704-695-4487 or Richard at 704-694-8988.

## NC COVID-19 Information

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit:

[ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus) or text COVIDNC to 898211. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization website at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

## Petition to Keep Walmart

Anson County residents interested in signing a Petition to the Market Manager of Walmart requesting reconsideration of closing the Wadesboro store may sign a petition located in several places in Wadesboro. Petitions can be found posted on the doors of Martin Furniture, B&B Pest Control, Arby's, Salon 52, KFC (inside bulletin board), and the Hightower Office Building next to Oliver's Restaurant.

The petition is headed up by Bebe Hamilton. She can be reached at [bebeh70@charter.net](mailto:bebeh70@charter.net).