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

## 2,581 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

**Vaccines are available. Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.**

As of Thursday, May 13 (this is the most recent data as of press time) the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,581 reported cases of COVID-19. 44 of those cases were active and 56 deaths. Last Monday, May 10 the number of reported cases was 2,574. The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, May 17 there were 688 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,891 deaths and 815 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of Monday, May 3 there were 1,126 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,691 deaths and 1,007 hospitalized. April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized. March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths and 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths and 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 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2,414 cases (56 deaths); April 30: 2,527 cases (56 deaths).

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

## Magnoria Funderburk and Susie Holcombe Recognized as Pre-K Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to Magnoria Funderburk and Susie Holcombe for being honored as Pre-K Teachers of the Year by the Anson County Partnership for Children.

Mrs. Funderburk is a NC Pre-K teacher at Central Center for Children and Families. She has been in the field of Early Education for several years and is extremely dedicated to the profession. When you walk into her classroom it is evident that she is a very gifted teacher and truly loves her students.



**Magnoria Funderburk**

Mrs. Holcombe runs a center in a residence and has been in the Early Childhood profession for over 20 years. She teaches multiple ages with developmentally appropriate activities at all times. Anyone who is in the field knows this requires extremely talented teaching skills and dedication. She is in the process of opening a center with the hopes of having it open soon.



**Susie Holcombe**

Thank you both for your outstanding work!

## This is the Last Weekend for the Ansonia Play, *Prelude to a Kiss*

Tickets are still available for this weekend's performances of the Ansonia play, *Prelude to a Kiss*. The play's run ends Sunday, so get your tickets now so you don't miss this wonderful production.

*Prelude to a Kiss* tells the story of Peter and Rita, two young, happy lovers who are getting married. On their wedding day, an old man comes up to kiss the bride. During this kiss their souls exchange, and the young, beautiful woman Peter just married now houses the soul of a dying old man. Peter struggles with the notion that this is his young bride, and he works feverishly to put the souls back in their original bodies.

The play is directed by Tommy Wooten and written by Craig Lucas. It stars a talented cast of local actors.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. You can purchase tickets online at [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com) or call 704-694-4950 for information and tickets.



Farm co-owner, Whitney Downer (far right), talks about poultry breeds with participants of Anson Youth Leaders Academy (AYLA) at Thy Will Be Done Farm in Wadesboro.

## Anson Youth Leaders Take Farm Tour

During a recent farm field trip to Thy Will Be Done LLC., participants of the Anson Youth Leaders Academy (AYLA) joined NC Cooperative Extension on a small farms visit. Owners Rodrequis Lisenby and Whitney Downer led the group on a walking tour of their Wadesboro farm in which participants learned about broiler chicken breeds, the egg laying operation, garden, and managing a backyard farrow-to-finish hog lot. Participants learned about resources for small-scale agricultural production and how their farm start-up experience tied in with building personal leadership skills, philanthropic responsibility, and entrepreneurship.

Anson Extension's Livestock Agent Kinsey Everhart and Horticulture Agent Aimee Colf, along with Union County Small Farms Agent Aaron Moore, explained their roles as Extension agents providing researched-based information and technical assistance to agricultural producers, and they discussed the diversity of crops and livestock raised in Anson.

Many Anson natives have strong familial ties to farming going back generations. Currently one-quarter of the land in Anson County is in agricultural production with 412 farms and 605 farmers. One hundred years ago 86% of the county was in agriculture with over 3,332 active farms, half of which were minority-owned.

Agriculture remains a large part of our economy. In 2017 the total market value of Anson's agricultural sales totaled over \$300 million. According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, only 13% of Anson's 605 producers are minority farmers. However, Lisenby and Downer are part of a growing number of new and beginning farmers seeking to re-establish an agricultural legacy for their family, and taking it one step further by sharing their knowledge and aspirations with AYLA. "Farming has always been a part of my life," recalled Downer. "There is nothing like the satisfaction of living off the land and establishing my own farm. It is such a joy and brings back many memories."

To learn more about Thy Will be Done LLC and other local farms that sell direct to consumer, download the "Visit NC Farms" mobile app and search farms in our county.

## Following New CDC Guidance on Face Coverings, Governor Cooper Lifts Many COVID-19 Restrictions

**State to lift gathering limits, social distancing requirements in all settings and indoor mask mandate for most settings**

On Friday, May 14 Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. shared an update on the state's COVID-19 progress. Throughout the pandemic, state officials have taken a data-driven approach and have been guided by the science in making decisions. Following yesterday's guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that fully vaccinated individuals can safely do most activities without wearing a mask or the need to social distance from others, the state will remove its indoor mask mandate for most settings. Additionally, the state will lift all mass gathering limits and social distancing requirements. These changes are now in effect as of 1:30 PM today.

"We can take this step today because the science shows our focus on getting people vaccinated is working," said Governor Cooper. "But to keep moving forward – and to make sure that we keep saving lives – more people need to get vaccinated."

The ability to lift restrictions sooner than anticipated following the CDC's guidance shows the importance of vaccinating all North Carolinians. As of this week, even more people can get vaccinated. Younger teens between 12 and 15 can now get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Young people are vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, just like everyone else, and the percent of COVID-19 cases in North Carolina children 17 and under has been increasing.

North Carolina continues to focus on distributing vaccines quickly and equitably. To date, the state has administered over 7.7 million doses. 51% percent of those 18 and up are at least partially vaccinated, and 46% percent of those 18 and up have been fully vaccinated.

"I am so proud of the incredible progress we have made in beating back this pandemic," said Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "Vaccines continue to be incredibly effective at protecting individuals from this terrible virus. And as more and more people get vaccinated, the results show in our stable metrics with lower cases, lower hospitalizations, and lower deaths."

In accordance with the new CDC guidance, there will still be certain settings where masks and other safety measures will be required. Masks will still be required in child care, schools and camps as most children are either not yet vaccinated or are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. Everyone, including people who are fully vaccinated will still be required to wear a mask in certain settings such as public transportation, health care settings like hospitals, doctor's offices and long-term care settings like nursing homes, and certain congregate settings like correctional facilities and homeless shelters.

NCDHHS will continue to have strong public health recommendations for individuals to continue to protect one another until more people are vaccinated. People who are not vaccinated should wear a mask and maintain distance in all indoor public settings and in outdoor settings when they can't maintain six feet of distance.

Masks are strongly recommended for everyone at large crowded indoor events like sporting events and live performances.

NCDHHS recommends public facing businesses post signage reminding guests to social distance and wear a face covering if they are not fully vaccinated; remind employees to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19; have a plan to immediately isolate and remove sick workers; and clean high-touch surfaces once a day. Businesses may choose to continue to require that their customers wear masks.

The Department of Health and Human Services will also continue to expand strategies to reach people who have not yet gotten vaccinated.

Information on the state's vaccine distribution is available at [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](http://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov) (English) or [Vacunate.nc.gov](http://Vacunate.nc.gov) (Spanish). People can find nearby vaccine providers using NCDHHS' online tool, Find a Vaccine Location ([myspot.nc.gov](http://myspot.nc.gov)). The state's COVID-19 vaccine hotline number is 888-675-4567.

## Bearcat Boys Basketball Interest / Informational Meeting is May 26

Any rising ninth grade through rising twelfth grade boy who is interested in playing basketball this summer, and coming out for the team next season should plan on attending an interest and informational meeting that will be held on Wednesday, May 26. It will take place in the Anson High School Gym at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a discussion about the summer workout schedule, the team camps participants will play in, and other important items.

For questions, contact Head Basketball Coach Randy Jordan at 704-694-9301 ext 6825 or email [jordan.randy@anson.k12.nc.us](mailto:jordan.randy@anson.k12.nc.us).

## Farmers Market Fridays at Health Department

The Anson County Health Department will host a new venue for area farmers to sell their products called Farmers Market Fridays. The market will operate at the Health Department from June 5 through August 28.

All farmers are invited to join this endeavor. For information call 704-994-3342.

The Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

## Grace Senior Center Health Expo is May 27

Grace Senior Center invites Anson County seniors to come to their 2021 Health Expo. The drive-through event will be held at the Center on Thursday, May 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees will receive a goody bag full of great items, including healthy snacks and information about senior services.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

## Wadesboro Lions Broom Sale

Now that the Covid-19 pandemic appears to be waning, everyone is flocking to Lacy's, Martin Furniture and Northcutt Affordables to purchase the Original Soft Sweep Magnetic Action Brooms offered by the Wadesboro Lions Club.

With the magnetic cleaning action, the brooms picks up lint and dust, especially human and pet hair. It will not scratch any floor, rinses clean and dries quickly. The kitten soft bristle is approximately 12" long and comes with a metal handle.

Pick up yours at one of the above locations for only \$10. The Lions Club's purple handled straw broom is also available for \$10.

For information about the different projects of the Wadesboro Lions Club please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.