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

Anson County Jumps to 160 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of Monday, July 6

As of Monday, July 6 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 160 reported cases of COVID-19, with 37 of those cases active. At that point they had discharged 123 cases, 121 to baseline health and two deaths.

COVID-19 Testing at the Health Department

The Anson County Health Department is beginning COVID-19 testing.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world. COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness. You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person. You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

- If you currently have symptoms of COVID-19 such as:
- Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Please call your primary care provider or urgent care if you do not have a medical home. If you are experiencing severe, life threatening symptoms (for example, severe difficulty breathing, altered thinking, blue lips), seek immediate medical care or call 9-1-1.

If you are 21 and over and currently DO NOT have symptoms but fall into one of the following categories and are interested in COVID-19 testing, please give us a call at (704) 694-5188 to make an appointment.

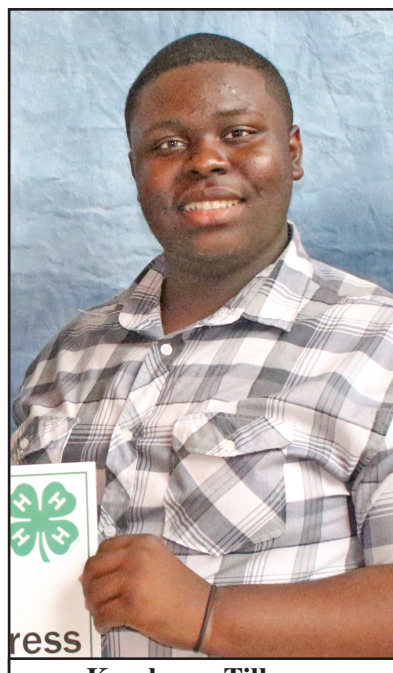
- Close contacts of known positive cases, regardless of symptoms.
- Groups of some of the populations with higher risk of exposure or a higher risk of severe disease if they become infected. People in these groups should get tested if they believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19, whether or not they have symptoms.
- People who live in or have regular contact with high-risk settings (e.g., long-term care facility, homeless shelter, correctional facility, migrant farmworker camp).
- People from historically marginalized populations who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. To view community testing in historically marginalized populations, visit: files.nc.gov/covid/documents/Community-Testing-Guidance.pdf.
- Frontline and essential workers (grocery store clerks, gas station attendants, child care workers, construction sites, processing plants, etc.)
- Health care workers or first responders.
- People who are at higher risk of severe illness (See Below).
- Is 65 years of age or older
- Lives in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Has a high-risk condition that includes: chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- heart disease with complications
- compromised immune system
- severe obesity - body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher
- other underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure or liver disease
- People who have attended protests, rallies, or other mass gatherings within the past 2 weeks could have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or could have exposed others.



Amelia Poplin



Quenton Cromartie



Keyshawn Tillman

4-H'ers Participate in First Virtual 4-H County Presentation

On Thursday, May 7 Anson County 4-H hosted its very first Virtual County Presentation. This year's format was very different from previous years where parents, friends, and relatives were able to attend Anson County's annual Fashion Revue, Creative Talent Show, and County Presentation at the Cooperative Extension Office. In response to COVID-19, the event was scaled down to only include County Presentations.

County Presentation's conversion to a virtual program consisted of youth submitting pre-recorded presentation videos on a topic of their choice. The videos were then judged and scored.

A big thank you to Anson County 4-H Volunteer and Anson County Robowolves 4-H Club Leader Ms. Steffanee Labree for judging the county presenters.

Winners of county presentations were: Amelia Poplin, 1st, 9-10 Environmental Science; Quenton Cromartie, 1st, 14-18 Agricultural Science; and Keyshawn Tillman, 1st, 14-18 Public Speaking. Congratulations to these county presenters who will advance to district competition in June. This event will be hosted virtually as well.

These county 4-H programs are all annual events. 4-H participation is open to all youth regardless of sex, race, religion or national origin. For more information about 4-H in Anson County contact Samuel Cole, 4-H Agent, at 704-694-2915.

North Carolina to Continue Working Toward Getting Students Back in the Classroom

The state has provided personal protective equipment to schools around the state as preparations continues

Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina will continue working with schools, teachers, parents, and health experts to ensure that plans for school this coming year will protect everybody, especially those at high-risk.

"We want to get our students back in the classroom, and we want to make sure we get this right. My number one opening priority is classroom doors," said Governor Roy Cooper. "We encourage our public schools to continue planning, with a special focus on how teachers, staff, and students can best be protected – especially those who are high-risk."

In June, the state released the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit laying out essential health practices for schools to re-open safely. Schools were asked to prepare three plans: Plan A – in-person learning with key health and safety rules in place. Plan B – same as Plan A, but with fewer children in the classroom at one time. And Plan C – remote learning for all students.

With the goal of getting students back in the classroom for in-person learning this school year, planning continues to ensure teachers, staff and students will have adequate protection.

"We need to do everything within our collective power so that our children can return to in-person instruction," said NCDHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen. "We can do that with the scientifically proven protective measures in the StrongSchoolsNC guidance and all of us practicing the 3Ws."

Last week, the state distributed supplies of personal protective equipment to schools across the state for use in the upcoming school year to keep students safe and healthy while at school. These PPE Starter Packs include a two-month supply of thermometers, surgical masks, face shields & gowns to school systems and charter schools, for school nurses and delegated staff who provide health care to students for the 2020-2021 school year.

In total, the shipments include more than 16,500 thermometers, 7,200 face shields, 81,000 gowns and more than 347,000 surgical masks. Shipments to 203 charter schools, lab schools, and regional schools will travel via UPS. Supplies for the 116 public school districts will ship either via UPS or directly to the school district warehouse by North Carolina National Guard teams or by a contracted trucking firm.

The state has also provided school districts with access to statewide contracts so they can more easily purchase other health and hygiene supplies, like cloth face coverings and hand sanitizer, for their staff and students. More is needed, and Governor Cooper is committed to work with schools, teachers, parents, the Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education on a strong plan to re-open schools.

Have You Completed Your Census?

Grace Senior Center will have a Census Help Day to help all senior citizens of Anson County complete their Census for 2020.

Did You Know by filling out your census, more funding is provided for your health care, senior centers, hospitals, roads and schools. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and county communities each year based on census data.

All seniors of Anson are invited to have their census completed on Thursday, July 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call Grace Senior Center and register at (704) 694-6616.

Due to COVID-19 Grace Senior Center will take all necessary precautions to ensure safety for all. Registered seniors will be required to wear masks, and they will supply a mask to anyone without one. Social Distancing, hand sanitizer and disinfecting all used areas will be practice during this event.

Once your Census is completed enjoy a cool treat with them too!

Anson County's Unemployment Rate Increased Significantly to 10.1% in May

Anson County's unemployment rate for May moved higher, to 10.1%, up from April's 8.2% rate. In March the unemployment rate was 4.9%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 12.7% in May, up slightly from April's 12.5% rate. In March the state rate was 4.2%.

The last time Anson County's unemployment rate was at this amount or higher was in August 2013, when the unemployment rate was 10.1%.

Anson's total labor force in May was 10,440. Of that number 9,384 were employed and 1,056 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,052, with 9,226 employed and 826 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 65 of North Carolina's counties in May, decreased in 34, and remained unchanged in one. Swain County had the highest unemployment rate at 19.7 percent, while Bertie and Chowan Counties each had the lowest at 8.1 percent.

Nine of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, five decreased, and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Asheville had the highest rate at 16.1 percent and Goldsboro had the lowest at 10.1 percent. The May not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 12.7 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 126,694 to 4,224,833, while those unemployed increased by 31,903 to 617,073. Since May 2019, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 660,445, while those unemployed increased 420,633.

Sips & Apps Open House to Benefit Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition is this Saturday

A Sips & Apps benefit open house for the Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Coalition will be held this Saturday, July 11, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Vineyard at the Old Place. Guests can enjoy the scenery, try some wine, watch Pampered Chef product demonstrations and sample wine-pairing appetizers.

Karen Baucom, Director of ACDVC, said, "Raising funds locally allows our organization to access matching grants and continue to provide 24-hour services."

According to the National Association Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence (also known in intimate partner violence) is not a personal problem, it affects everyone, from the children and family of those directly affected to friends and the community. It can happen to anyone regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, education, religion, class, disability status or sexual orientation. Over 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Proceeds from Pampered Chef product sales will benefit the agency. Those who cannot attend the event can support the fundraiser at: www.pamperedchef.com/party/acdvccfundraiser through July 13.

Vineyard at the Old Place is located at 5435 Austin Road in Peachland. Social distancing practices will be in effect. Please see www.facebook.com/Vineyard-at-The-Old-Place-316757222338031 for updates based on state guidelines, or call 704-690-7000. For more information about ACDVC visit www.acdvcc.org.

Bach's Lunch To Go is Set for July 15

Although the Anson County Arts Council would like to be able to have their Bach's Lunches like they normally do, at this time they do not see a safe, feasible way to do this, so they have announced their "Bach's Lunch To Go." They will have a to-go lunch setup starting Wednesday, July 15, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the 108 Drake Gallery location on Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The delicious menus is chicken salad lunch with sides, dessert and drink.

You can call now, 704-694-4950, and leave your name, number and how many plates you would like to reserve. Plates will be \$10. You can also pick up plates at the door the day of the luncheon, but the Arts Council asks that you call ahead which will help with their planning.

To help reduce contact, no actual tickets will be printed.

Papa Joe's Pizza is Open for Take Out or Deliveries

Delicious pizza and many other menu items are available at Papa Joe's Pizza in Wadesboro. They have a safe system for picking up your take out order, with a one-way track system. You can call in your order and go in the main door to pick up and pay, while circling around through the outdoor patio area to exit.

The hours are: Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday, 5 to 10 p.m. The telephone number is 704-694-6666.

They are located in the Plank Road Shopping Center, 911 East Caswell Street (Highway 74) in Wadesboro.

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