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Anson County Covid-19 Update - Booster Doses Are Now Available

Vaccines & booster doses are available. Ansonians are urged to get vaccinated. Flu shots now available at the Health Department.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Monday, October 25 showed 3,845 total Covid-19 cases, with 58 active. There was an additional death from Covid-19 in the last week, bringing the total deaths to 81. Vaccines are available, including walk-in clinics. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information.

Moderna Boosters are now available. Health Director Dr. Fred Thompson gives details below.

Free Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. without an appointment. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot on Morven Road. They are testing Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No appointment is needed and there is no charge for the Covid test. Results will be called or emailed directly to the person tested or, in the case of children, to their parent or adult caregiver, in 2-3 days. They will test anyone over the age of 1.

Flu Shots The Health Department is offering both the regular flu shot and the high dose flu shot, for those 65 and over, on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, between 1:30 and 4 p.m. No appointment is needed. Just come on over to the Health Department with your ID and your insurance card and they will take care of you.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

Health Director Fred Thompson, PhD gave this update on October 25. "To strengthen and extend protections against severe illness, individuals who have been fully vaccinated with the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines may now be eligible to receive a booster dose. The Health Department is recommending "booster" vaccine shots to provide continued protection against COVID-19.

Moderna If you were vaccinated more than 6 months ago with the Moderna COVID-19 shot, boosters are now available for people:

- 65 and older,
 - 18 years or older who:
 - Live or work in a nursing home or long-term care facility,
 - Have underlying medical conditions; or,
 - Who work in high-risk settings like healthcare workers, teachers and childcare providers or food workers,
 - Live or work in a place where many people live together such as college dormitories or group living settings.
- The Moderna booster is a smaller dose than what is given in the first two shots.

Johnson & Johnson It is recommended that anyone 18 or older who was vaccinated more than 2 months ago with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine get a booster dose.

Pfizer Pfizer booster shots have been available since September 24 to anyone at high risk for serious illness or exposure, and who received their second dose at least six months ago.

Additionally, individuals are now able to receive any brand of COVID-19 vaccine for their booster shot. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster.

The Health Department offers the Moderna vaccine, which can now be used as the booster for any of the COVID-19 vaccines. We continue to vaccinate on Tuesdays and Thursdays. No appointment is needed, and people can self-attest to eligibility for the booster.

COVID-19 booster shots are an important tool to provide additional protection against COVID-19. I encourage anyone who is eligible to get their booster.

For anyone who is unvaccinated, I encourage them to get vaccinated with the vaccine of their choice. We are seeing the COVID-19 virus attack those who are unvaccinated at a much higher rate than those who are vaccinated.

The information for the different COVID-19 vaccine booster shots can be confusing. If you have questions, please reach out to the Health Department's Immunization Nurse, Lori Ross, at (704) 994-3384.

For any other questions or information you can reach the Health Department at 704-694-5188. Thank you"

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, October 25 there were 1,183 new cases, with 17,867 deaths and 1,527 hospitalized. 71% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 66% were fully vaccinated.



majorettes Kayla Carpenter, Mallory Sikes and Anijah Williams pose with banners commemorating their special night.

Anson High School Senior Majorettes, Other Seniors Honored on Friday

The Bearcats versus Parkwood football game this past Friday was Fall Sports Senior Night at Anson High School Stadium. AHS Seniors on the football team, in the Band, on the Majorette squad and Cross Country were recognized as they were escorted on the field by parents and friends.

AHS student and standout football player Malik Byrd who died in 2020 was also honored. His friend Chrischaun Hough who was paralyzed as a result of the same incident that killed Malik was in attendance, accompanying Malik's family and friends on the field.

The Bearcats lost to Parkwood 26-20 in an exciting and close game.

Pictured at left, from left to right, AHS senior

Anson County Tourism Down in 2020

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has released a county-level spending report for 2020. New data from the research study conducted by the U.S. Travel Association provides visitor spending totals in all 100 North Carolina counties for 2020. Information from the study, first released in May of this year, previously showed statewide visitor spending dropped 32 percent last year, due primarily to the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 coronavirus. The new data shows revenue losses were felt most keenly in urban areas, with some smaller destinations seeing gains.

Anson County Anson County saw a decline of 13.7% in the visitor spending growth rate for 2020, with total visitor spending of \$15.8 million. Other Anson County visitor data: Lodging \$3.1 million; Food & Beverage \$5.9 million; Recreation \$1.7 million; Retail \$1.3 million; Transportation \$3.8 million; Total visitor spending \$15.8 million. Share of state visitor spending 0.1%. Tourism/visitor jobs 126, share of state jobs 0.1%. Labor income \$4.2 million; state taxes \$800,000; local taxes \$600,000; state/local tax savings per resident \$58.61.

Mecklenburg County led the state in visitor spending (\$2.8 billion) and direct tourism employment (26,940). North Carolina's statewide spending totaled \$19.96 billion, as reported in May. The Mecklenburg figures also represent the most substantial pandemic impacts of any of the state's 100 counties: 51 percent in visitor spending and 45 percent in job losses. In contrast, visitor spending from 2019 to 2020 increased in 14 counties with the largest gain (32 percent) occurring in Warren County.

"The advances are well worth celebrating in the counties that saw increases in visitor spending," said Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "While the overall findings of this study confirm what we already knew about the pandemic's effect, what's even more clear is we must all continue to work with Visit NC and other tourism leaders statewide to inspire visitation, to build confidence in our efforts to make travel here as safe as possible, and to restore an industry that benefits every part of North Carolina."

The visitor spending study, commissioned by Visit NC and conducted by the U.S. Travel Association in collaboration with Tourism Economics, provides preliminary estimates of domestic and international traveler expenditures as well as employment, payroll income, and state and local tax revenues directly generated by these expenditures. The statistical model draws on detailed data from Visit NC as well as data derived from federal and state government sources, nationally known private and non-profit travel organizations, and other travel industry sources.

Key findings from the study:

- Visitors (domestic and international) to North Carolina spent \$19.96 billion statewide in 2020, a decrease of 32 percent from 2019.
- Eighty-six of the state's 100 counties experienced decreases in visitor spending.
- Counties that had increased spending were Warren (+32%), Greene (+21%), Yancey (+16%), Clay (+14%), Stokes (+11%), Polk (+9%), Northampton (+9%), Pender (+8%), Ashe (+6%), Alleghany (+4%), Rutherford (+4%), Jones (+4%), Currituck (+3%) and Tyrrell counties (+2%).
- Despite large losses for many, top counties for spending in 2020 were similar to previous years. They were: Mecklenburg (\$2.8 billion), Wake (\$1.7 billion), Buncombe (\$1.5 billion), Dare (\$1.4 billion), Guilford (\$849 million), Brunswick (\$731 million), New Hanover (\$598 million), Durham (\$549 million), Forsyth (\$527 million) and Carteret (\$487 million) counties.
- Statewide tourism employment for 2020 totaled 178,685. The figure represents a 26 percent decrease from 2019.
- Twenty counties had increases in employment related to visitor spending in 2020: Warren, Greene, Clay, Stokes, Ashe, Yancey, Alleghany, Pender, Macon, Northampton, Jones, Polk, Rutherford, Montgomery, Tyrrell, Dare, Carteret, Madison, Currituck and Swain.
- As expected, metropolitan counties had the largest decreases in direct tourism employment (Mecklenburg, Guilford, Wake, Durham, Orange, Cabarrus and Forsyth). Despite this report's bad news, North Carolina ranks fifth among states for visitation.

Virtual Barn Blast Scheduled for January

The Anson County Partnership for Children is pleased to announce Barn Blast 2022 will be hosted virtually on Thursday, January 27, 2022, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The fun of Barn Blast continues with interactive games and prizes, despite being a virtual event.

Executive Director Caroline Goins said, "We look forward to you seeing you there!"

Sponsorship and donation opportunities are available. This event will be open to the public. More information coming in November.

School Board Meeting Notes

The Anson County School Board held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 25.

- The board continued to approve the Face Coverings Policy for Students and Staff. You can find the policy at: boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=anson#&&hs=1091283
- The board also approved revised school calendar for 2021-2022 that changes November 12 and 24 to optional teacher workdays and non-student days.

Chicken & Dumplings this Saturday

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center will host its Annual Chicken & Dumplings Fundraiser this Saturday, October 30. Lunch starts at 11:00 a.m. and will last until 5:00 p.m. or until all of the food is gone. Enjoy music by gospel musician William Barrett of Union County. Eat in or carry out.

Funds will be used to help BRLC provide food, resources and services to families throughout Anson and the surrounding areas weekly.

Volunteers Joe and Sara Thomas of the Peachland community continue to lead the BRLC Chicken & Dumplings Fundraiser.

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center is located at 13349 Highway 742 North, Polkton, NC 28135, across from the Burnsville Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

For more information visit www.burnsvillele.org.

Drive-Thru Trick or Treat with Local Churches and in Uptown Wadesboro this Saturday

Trick or Treat at more than a dozen Wadesboro locations from 5 to 7 p.m. this Saturday, October 30. Locations include: Tite Cutz, Treasure Corner, Indie Studios, Awesome Touch, HW Little Hardware, Wadesboro Fire Department / Anson Rescue Squad, Domestic Violence Coalition, Triad Barber School, Speckled Paw Coffee, Liberty Hospice, Alter'd Hair, Studio 256, Partnership for Children and Velvet Creations.

Participating churches throughout the county are First Presbyterian, First Methodist, First Baptist (Lee Ave.) and Calvary Episcopal in uptown Wadesboro, Harvest Ministries (Highway 74 in Wadesboro), Empowering Word Ministries (Highway 52 South in Wadesboro), Mt. Beulah Baptist (Country Club Road in Wadesboro), North Wadesboro Baptist (Highway 109 North in Wadesboro), and Peachland Baptist, Peachland Methodist and Gospel Tabernacle, all in uptown Peachland. Everyone is invited! See if you can visit every location!

Veterans Day Drive-Thru Event on November 11

This is a release from the Anson County Veteran Services Office: Please join us for a Veterans Day drive-thru event on Thursday, November 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Wadesboro City Park, located at 1000 Gatewood Street. (Off Morven Road at the corner of Center and Gatewood Streets.) Enjoy lunch and a resource bag filled with chances to win some awesome door prizes from our local sponsors, a gift basket from our local VFW, and more.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 10-22-2021

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	1	0	1	0
Anson High School	5	2	0	0
Anson Middle School	5	0	1	0
Ansonville Elementary	4	0	1	0
Lilesville Elementary	8	0	1	0
Morven Elementary	1	1	1	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	6	0	1	0
Wadesboro Elementary	3	1	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	2	0	1	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	0	N/A	0
Total	35	4	7	0
Total Students + Employees	39		7	

*Student Enrollment as of 10/22 2,948
*Enrollment changes daily
% of Students Positive 0.24%
of Employees 513
% of Employees Positive 0.00%

A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.