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

## 1,176 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, December 14 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 1,176 reported cases of COVID-19. 204 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 972 cases, 953 to baseline health and nineteen deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, Dec. 14 there were 441,365 total cases of COVID-19, with 5,855 deaths, 6,016,031 completed tests and 2,553 hospitalized.

As of Monday, December 7 there were 404,032 total cases of COVID-19, with 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 completed tests and 2,373 hospitalized. On November 2 there were 278,028 total cases of COVID-19, with 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 completed tests and 1,146 hospitalized. On October 5 there were 219,754 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 completed tests and 971 hospitalized.

**Recent history in Anson County:** March 31 - 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases; May 26 - 62 cases; June 22 - 107 cases; July 27 - 285 cases; August 3 - 306 cases; August 26 - 408 cases; September 4 - 461 cases; September 28 - 605 cases; October 5 - 649 cases; October 26 - 720 cases; November 2 - 738 cases; November 30 - 937 cases; December 7 - 1,029 cases.

## Schools Return to All Remote Classes

Beginning on Monday, December 14 all schools in Anson County have transitioned back to remote learning only. Here is the release from the school system:

In consultation with the Anson County Health Department, Anson County Schools has made the decision to temporarily go 100 percent remote for all Anson County Schools' students beginning Monday, December 14 to Thursday, December 17 (Friday, December 18 is already a scheduled remote learning day).

This decision was made due to the increase of community transmissions of COVID-19 and to keep our school family safe.

All learning will continue remotely. Our students will observe Christmas and New Year's holidays December 21 - January 1. If there are any further changes, we will notify all students, parents and staff as soon as possible. As always, our priority will be the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

All high school EOC in-person testing for Biology, Math 1, Math 3 and English II as mandated by the NC Department of Instruction will be postponed until second semester. All CTE state assessments that require in-person administration will also be postponed until second semester.

## North Carolina Begins Modified Stay at Home Order to Slow COVID-19 Spread

**Order requires people to stay at home 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Certain businesses required to be closed during those hours; More than 80% of NC counties now in the red or orange categories - Anson County is red category.**

On Tuesday, December 8 Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen announced that North Carolina will begin a Modified Stay at Home Order after a rapid increase in North Carolina's key COVID-19 trends. The Order requires people to stay at home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. It took effect Friday, December 11 and will be in place until at least January 8, 2021.

"We already have strong safety protocols and capacity limitations in place - including a statewide mask requirement. With this additional action beginning Friday, we hope to get these numbers down," Governor Cooper said. "Our new modified Stay At Home order aims to limit gatherings and get people home where they are safer, especially during the holidays. It's also a reminder that we must be vigilant the rest of the day - wearing a face mask when we are with people we don't live with, keeping a safe distance from others and washing our hands a lot."

The Order requires restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, personal care businesses and more to close at 10 pm. Travel to and from work; to obtain food, medical care, fuel or social services; or to take care of a family member is exempted. Read more in the Frequently Asked Questions document.

In the past week, North Carolina's case count has broken single-day records on three separate days, including crossing more than 6,000 cases per day on two of those days. Just a month ago, cases were under 3,000 per day. In recent days, the percent of tests returning positive has increased to more than 10%.

Governor Cooper was clear that further action would be taken to slow the spread of the virus if trends do not improve. This could require further limiting of restaurant dining, indoor entertainment or shopping and retail capacity restrictions, among other safety protocols.

Dr. Cohen also provided an update on North Carolina's COVID-19 County Alert System map. The number of red counties (critical community spread) has more than doubled since November 23, up to 48 red counties from 20 red counties. There are now 34 orange counties (substantial community spread), as compared to 42 orange counties from the previous report. With today's report, more than 80% of the state's counties fall into the red or orange tier. Read the update to see where each county stands and how the system was designed.

"Your actions can keep people from getting sick, save lives, and make sure our hospitals can care for people whether it's for a heart attack or a car accident or COVID-19. Protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community now," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

## Know Your Ws...Wear, Wait, Wash

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is asking people to remember these three things as we stay strong and continue to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19.

- If you leave home, practice your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash
- Wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.
- Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

## Anson County Schools Christmas Card Art Winners

<p>Designed By: Alyvia Gerald, Grade 4 Ansonville Elementary School</p>	<p>Designed By: An Tonnu, Grade 12 Anson Early College High School</p>	<p>Designed By: Mr. Brandon Smith, Teacher Anson Middle School</p>
<p>Designed By: Cherish Chambers, Grade 5 Peachland-Polkton Elementary School</p>	<p>Designed By: Elin Lockhart, Grade 5 Peachland-Polkton Elementary School</p>	<p>Designed By: Kirra Tillman, Grade 11 Anson Early College High School</p>
<p>Designed By: Ishan Simms, Grade 9 Anson Early College High School</p>	<p>Designed By: Caleb Gaddy, Grade 5 Lilesville Elementary School</p>	<p>Designed By: Kaden Gray Sikes, Grade 1 Peachland-Polkton Elementary School</p>
<p>Designed By: Jamie Howard, Grade 8 Anson Middle School</p>	<p>Designed By: Susanna Hyatt, Grade 3 Ansonville Elementary School</p>	<p>Designed By: NyShawn Lilly, Grade 5 Ansonville Elementary School</p>
<p>Designed By: Ruby Hyatt, Grade 5 Ansonville Elementary School</p>	<p>Designed By: Ms. Kristy Gerald, Teacher Ansonville Elementary School</p>	<p>Designed By: Zohaa Ali, Grade 10 Anson Early College High School</p>

## Ansonia Play *Fruitcakes* Presented this Friday, Saturday & Sunday

This is the final weekend for the Ansonia Theatre's Christmas play, *Fruitcakes*. Performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 18-20. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday is a matinee at 3 p.m. Mix together a batch of fruitcakes, three dozen Christmas trees, 10,000 outdoor Christmas lights, a chicken pox epidemic, two Southern spinners, an estranged old man, a lost cat named Tutti Frutti and a Christmas hog named Buster and you've got the recipe for a fun-filled and touching evening of holiday cheer. Into this world comes Jamie, a kid who has run away from home and come as far as his money will take him. At first, he thinks this town's inhabitants are "nuttier than fruitcakes," but soon he comes to admire, appreciate and adore this nutty little town.

The play will run as scheduled with Covid precautions in place. The theatre has increased space between rows in Ansonia seating, and families and friends in the same "Covid pods" are encouraged to sit together. Face coverings/masks are required. The theatre has been professionally cleaned, and they will have hand sanitizer stations and encourage frequent handwashing.

If you are sick or do not feel well please do not come to the theatre. The staff expects patrons to use common sense while attending the theatre.

Director Tommy Wooten said, "We want to spread Christmas cheer, not germs!" Tickets are available now. For information and tickets call 704-694-4950 or visit the Ansonia Theatre website at [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com).