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

## 1,294 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, December 21 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 1,294 reported cases of COVID-19. 212 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 1,082 cases, 1,059 to baseline health and 23 deaths.

Remember to wear a mask, keep distance from others, wash your hands often, and download the SLOWCOVID app. Learn more about the free SlowCOVIDNC Exposure Notification app at [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/SlowCOVIDNC](http://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/SlowCOVIDNC). #StayStrongNC. Let's all do our part!"

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Tuesday, December 22 there were 488,902 total cases of COVID-19, with 6,291 deaths, 6,465,155 completed tests and 3,001 hospitalized.

As of Monday, December 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; December 14 - 1,176 cases.

## Anson Schools Return to Plan C Remote Learning After Christmas Holiday

The Anson County School Board approved a return to Plan C for January 4 to 14, 2021, for all students. This will allow for a fourteen day quarantine which state officials predict will be a rise in COVID-19 cases due to the holiday season. Building level staff will work remotely for those two weeks.

In-person instruction will resume on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, under Plan B for all schools.

If these plans change, the school system will communicate with all stakeholders immediately.

Middle and High School staff will be in contact with their students regarding further information about second semester cohort assignments.

See the Anson County Schools Facebook page for up to date information.

## Anson County Schools Curbside Meal Information

Anson County Schools will be offering curbside meals service at Ansonville Elementary, Anson Middle, Lilesville Elementary, Morven Elementary, Peachland-Polkton Elementary or Wadesboro Elementary from January 4 -14, 2021. The Anson County School District School Nutrition Department is committed to helping children ages 1 to 18. Any family that needs this meal service but cannot locate transportation to the meal sites should contact their school administration or office staff for assistance.

**Spanish Version:** Anson County Schools ofrecerá comidas para recoger en los siguientes puntos de entrega: Ansonville Elementary, Lilesville Elementary, Morven Elementary, Peachland Polkton Elementary, Wadesboro Elementary o Anson Middle School, desde 4 de enero hasta el 14 de enero del 2.021, de lunes a jueves.

El Departamento de Nutrición de Anson County School District está comprometido a ayudar a los niños entre 1 y 18 años de edad. Si alguna familia necesita este servicio de comidas pero no dispone de transporte para recogerlas, debe comunicarse con el personal de administración de la escuela para mayor asistencia.

## Grace Senior Center Gives Thanks to Volunteers

Wanda Talbert, Elderly Services Director at Grace Senior Center, has released this message to volunteers at the center: Dear Grace Senior Center Volunteers,

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Thank you so much for your labor of love with Grace Senior Center's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon held on Thursday, December 3.

Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities has strengthened this wonderful ministry for our seniors. Each of you has shown an example of servant-leadership and giving during this very challenging year. This ministry we provided for our seniors was the first-ever Christmas luncheon drive-thru.

For all of your time, effort, hard work and prayers, please accept the thanks and appreciation of Grace Senior Center, the advisory board, staff and me. You have indeed been a blessing to our organization!

*With Sincere Gratitude,  
Wanda Talbert, Grace Senior Center*

## Wadesboro Town Hall and Garbage Collection Holiday Schedules

- The Town Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25 to celebrate the Christmas Holiday. There will be no garbage collections on these days. The routes for Wednesday and Thursday will be picked up on Wednesday, December 23.
- The Town Hall will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021 to celebrate the New Year Holiday. This will not affect the garbage collection schedule.

The Town of Wadesboro appreciates your consideration in allowing city employees time with their families during this holiday season. As always, you will still be able to leave your utility bill payments in the night deposit box at Town Hall. If you have an emergency, please call Dispatch at 704-694-2167.



## Merry Christmas Everyone!

Many Anson County neighborhoods are aglow with Christmas spirit this year. This spirited display took many hours to construct and it was well worth the effort. Thank you for sharing, Bo and Jane Treadaway! Merry Christmas to all!

## Executive Order Allows for To-Go or Delivery Sales for Mixed Beverages

On Monday, December 21 Governor Roy Cooper signed an Executive Order authorizing the North Carolina ABC Commission to permit the delivery or carry-out of mixed beverages as an alternative to on-site consumption. This Order became effective December 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and runs through January 31, 2021.

"This order will help people avoid settings that can contribute to increased viral spread while giving restaurants and bars a financial boost that they need right now," said Governor Cooper. "With cases and hospitalizations high around the country, let's all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 while supporting local, small businesses safely."

Under this Order, establishments holding certain permits from the ABC Commission, including restaurants, hotels, private clubs, private bars, and some distilleries, are allowed to sell mixed beverages to-go or for delivery. These businesses, delivery service providers that contract with these businesses, and purchasers of mixed beverages to-go must follow the restrictions in the Order and any additional restrictions and guidance established by the ABC Commission.

The Modified Stay at Home Order remains in effect and the sale of alcohol for on-site consumption must still cease at 9 pm. Businesses subject to the Order may continue to sell mixed beverages for off-site consumption until their business closes and in accordance with other applicable laws and regulations.

The Council of State concurred with this Order.

## It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Anson Girl Scouts have stayed active even though their meetings have been virtual. Girl Scouts have participated in community service projects, online events and family-based outdoor activities. The money earned from selling cookies is used to pay for registration fees and supply kits so the young ladies in Anson County's troop can learn new things and continue supporting our local community.

When selling cookies, Girl Scouts learn how to run a small business - from customer service to inventory, money-handling to marketing. Life skills that will serve them well and into adulthood.

There is only one active troop right now in Anson County for Anson County girls. They meet in Peachland, but have Girl Scouts from all over the county, including White Store, Morven, Wadesboro, Peachland and Polkton.

Pre-orders for cookies can be made at [digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/troop1389-360](http://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/troop1389-360) or you can call 704-994-9173.

Cookies can be shipped (charge applied) or delivered to local customers at no charge. Delivery will occur in late January.

For more information about Anson Girl Scouts, or to order directly, contact Laura Laney at 704-994-9173.

## NC's November Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 6.2 percent, remaining unchanged from October's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.2 of a percentage point to 6.7 percent.

North Carolina's November 2020 unemployment rate increased 2.6 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 28,320 over the month to 4,656,817 and decreased 261,796 over the year. The number of people unemployed increased 2,650 over the month to 308,905 and increased 123,267 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 16,500 to 4,370,500 in November. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 8,000; Construction, 3,200; Education & Health Services, 2,100; Manufacturing, 1,200; Professional & Business Services, 1,000; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,000; Information, 300; Government, 200; and Mining & Logging, 100. The only major industry experiencing a decrease was Financial Activities, 600. Other Services employment remained unchanged.

Since November 2019, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 222,300 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 191,600 and Government decreasing by 30,700. The only major industry experiencing an over-the-year increase was Financial Activities, 1,500. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 100,000; Manufacturing, 35,900; Education & Health Services, 34,600; Government, 30,700; Construction, 6,100; Information, 4,800; Professional & Business Services, 4,700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,600; Other Services, 3,300; and Mining & Logging, 100.

## NCDOT Reminds New Drone Pilots to Fly Safe

Drones make great holiday gifts, but new and inexperienced pilots should follow some simple safety tips to protect yourself and others. More than 30,000 North Carolinians now own and operate drones for personal and recreational use. As this number grows, the N.C. Department of Transportation is reminding drone pilots to follow basic safety precautions, because drones can be dangerous to others if they are not operated properly.

"Drones are an amazing new technology, and are becoming an increasingly popular holiday gift," said Ben Spain, head of NCDOT's drone office. "We need to make sure people don't treat these as just a toy, and know how to operate them in a safe manner."

NCDOT's Division of Aviation has provided the following eight tips to help pilots make sure they're flying safely and legally:

- Always fly below 400 feet above ground level,
- Never fly near airports,
- Avoid flying over events or crowds,
- Don't fly at night, even if your drone has lights,
- Never fly directly over people,
- Don't fly near or above prisons,
- Respect people's privacy, and
- Always keep the drone within your visual line of sight.

By following these guidelines, drone pilots can be more confident that their flights are safe and legal. Before flying, pilots should also take the time to learn about the local, state, and federal laws governing drones.

North Carolinians interested in flying a drone for commercial or government operations must obtain a permit from the N.C. Division of Aviation. Before applying, prospective users must pass NCDOT's UAS Knowledge Test. Visit [eaviation.ncdot.gov/UAS](http://eaviation.ncdot.gov/UAS) for information.

## Driving in Winter Weather

With winter weather in the forecast, now is the time to prepare. To remain safe during this time, the best thing you can do is not drive on the roads, but if you must, plan ahead and review how to operate your vehicle in winter weather.

**Prepare Your Vehicle** Before you hit the road, it's a good rule of thumb to prepare your vehicle ahead of time. The lower temperatures can cause tire pressure and battery power to drop and may cause moisture to freeze the gas lines. Check your tire pressure, test your battery and keep your gas tank at least half full.

Make sure your wiper fluid is rated for minus 30 degrees and replace wiper blades, if needed. Your tires should have a tread of 2/32" or more. If the tread is less than that, the tires should be replaced. And remember, your emergency kit should be stocked.

**Defrost** Before shifting into gear, defrost your windows. You should be able to see mirrors and through all windows before driving on the roads - even if you are driving a short distance.

Also, remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors that work with assistive-driving features, such as automatic braking and forward collision warning.

**Increase Traction on the Road** Driving in a lower gear will keep you from accelerating quickly and therefore losing traction with the road and losing control of the vehicle. Be careful driving up and down hills too. If you apply too much gas, your tires can spin too much and lose traction with the road.

**Increase Following Distance** While driving in winter weather, increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This will allow you more time if you need to stop.

**Don't Use Cruise Control** Your cruise control is an asset driving long distances, but DO NOT use it when driving in winter conditions. During the conditions, your vehicle is more likely to hydroplane because it is trying to maintain a constant speed.

**Skidding: What to Do?** If your car happens to skid while driving on snow or ice, do not panic. Remove your foot from the accelerator and avoid slamming on the brakes. Steer your vehicle into the direction of the skid to correct its orientation. That means steer into the same side the rear end of the vehicle is sliding toward. Be careful not to oversteer as this could cause your vehicle to move into more of a skid.

Remember, you can contact State Highway Patrol by calling \*HP or \*47 in the event of an emergency.