



**Mrs. Karen Epps Winfree**

Mrs. Karen Epps Winfree, 76, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at her home.

A time to visit and share memories took place on Sunday, January 3, 2020, at Wells Funeral Home of Waynesville. A graveside service took place in Wadesboro at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2020, at Eastview Cemetery. The family will received friends prior to the graveside service at Leavitt Funeral Home. Due to COVID-19, masks and social distancing was observed.

A native of Albemarle, North Carolina, she was a daughter of the late P. V. and Cora Bell Whitley Epps.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by two brothers, Bobby and P. V. Epps, Jr. Karen was a beloved French teacher beginning her career in education at Terrell Wells Middle School and retiring after 15 years at Tuscola High School. Early in life, Karen's perseverance, work ethic and desire to succeed buoyed her family during life's toughest moments. She was a shining example of a supportive wife, gracious aunt and loving friend.

Karen is survived by her high school sweetheart and husband of 54 years, Pharmacist James H. Winfree of Waynesville; two sisters, Shirley Schwartz, of Charlotte and Betty Higgins and her husband Fred of Pinnacle, North Carolina; and several wonderful nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Haywood Hospice and Palliative Care, 43 Bowman Drive, Waynesville, NC 28786.

The care of Mrs. Winfree has been entrusted to Wells Funeral Homes, and an online memorial register is available at "Obituaries" at [www.wellsfuneralhome.com](http://www.wellsfuneralhome.com).

**NCDHHS Shares Updated Rollout Plan for COVID-19 Vaccinations**

On Wednesday, December 30 the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) announced it had updated its vaccination plan to align with new federal recommendations the previous last week. The changes simplify the vaccine process and continue the state's commitment to first protect health care workers caring for patients with COVID-19, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying, and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19.

"While there is still much to do, we head into 2021 with a powerful tool to stop this pandemic—vaccines," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "However, because supplies are very limited, it's going to be several months before vaccines are widely available to everyone. Until most people are vaccinated, everyone needs to continue to wear a mask, wait six feet apart, and wash their hands."

Because vaccine supplies are currently limited, states must make vaccine available in phases. On December 22, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices released updated interim vaccine prioritization recommendations for the next phases of vaccinations. North Carolina's updated plan is outlined below.

**• CURRENT PHASE - Phase 1a: Health care workers fighting COVID-19 and long-term care staff and residents.**

Hospitals and local health departments are vaccinating health care workers caring for and working directly with patients with COVID-19 and those giving vaccines. In addition, the federal government is vaccinating long-term care residents and staff.

**• Phase 1b: Adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers.** This is the next phase of vaccinations. There is not enough vaccine for everyone in this phase to be vaccinated at the same time. Vaccinations will be available to groups in the following order.

- **Group 1:** Anyone 75 years or older regardless of medical condition or living situation. People do not have to have a chronic health condition.

- **Group 2:** Health care and frontline essential workers who are 50 years of age or older.

- **Group 3:** Frontline workers of any age and health care workers of any age, regardless of whether they work directly with COVID-19 patients. This phase is anticipated to begin in early January.

The CDC defines frontline essential workers as first responders (firefighters, police), education (child care, teachers, support staff), manufacturing, corrections officers, public transit, grocery store, food and agriculture, and US postal workers.

**• Phase 2: Adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness.** In this phase, vaccinations will also open in the following order:

- **Group 1:** Anyone ages 65-74 years regardless of medical condition or living situation.

- **Group 2:** Anyone 16-64 years with a medical condition that increases risk of severe disease from COVID-19.

- **Group 3:** Anyone who is incarcerated or living in other close group living settings who has not already vaccinated due to age, medical condition or job function.

**Group 4:** Essential workers as defined by the CDC who have not yet been vaccinated. The CDC defines these workers as in transportation or logistics, water and wastewater, foods service, shelter and housing (e.g., construction), finance (e.g., bank tellers), information technology and communications, energy, legal, media, and public safety (e.g. engineers), and public health workers.

**• Phase 3: Students.**

- College, university and high school students 16 or older.

- Younger children will only be vaccinated when the vaccine is approved for them.

**• Phase 4: Finally, anyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccine will be able to get one.**

All vaccine providers are expected to ensure that vaccine is administered equitably within each group.

NCDHHS has a specific focus on building trust with historically marginalized populations. Longstanding and continuing racial and ethnic injustices in our health care system contribute to lack of trust in vaccines. The department is partnering with trusted leaders and organizations to provide accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines to all North Carolinians and ensure equitable access to vaccines. More information is available at [yourspotyourshot.nc.gov](http://yourspotyourshot.nc.gov).

**Pet Owners Warned to Destroy Recalled Sportmix Brand Pet Food Due to High Levels of Aflatoxin**

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is issuing a warning to consumers to not purchase or let their dogs or cats consume certain lot codes and types of Sportmix brand dog and cat foods due to high levels of aflatoxin found in the products during testing. There have been reports of illnesses and deaths in dogs associated with some of the products identified in this recall. No cat or human illnesses have been reported.

The products are sold through Midwestern Pet Foods, Inc. of Evansville, In. and distributed nationally.

"These products are registered for sale in North Carolina," said Joe Reardon, assistant commissioner of consumer protection. "We know that they are available at brick-and-mortar retail locations as well as through online distributors. These products have shown high levels of aflatoxin and pet owners need to be diligent in not allowing dogs, cats or other animals, including wildlife, to consume the recalled products."

Aflatoxin is a toxin produced by the mold *Aspergillus flavus* and can grow on corn and other grains that are used as ingredients in pet food. At high levels, aflatoxin can cause illness and death in pets. Signs of aflatoxin poisoning in pets include sluggishness, loss of appetite, vomiting, jaundice and/or diarrhea. If a pet owner suspects aflatoxin poisoning, they need to contact their veterinarian immediately.

Lot code information may be found on the back of bag and will appear in a three-line code, with the top line in format "EXP 03/03/22/05/L#/B###/HH:MM"

Recalled lot codes are as follows:

- 50# Sportmix Energy Plus Lots Exp 03/02/22/05/L2, 03/02/22/05/L3, 03/03/22/05/L2
- 44# Sportmix Energy Plus Lots 03/02/22/05/L3
- 50# Sportmix Premium High Energy Lots 03/03/22/05/L3
- 44# Sportmix Premium High Energy Lots 03/03/22/05/L3
- 31# Sportmix Original Cat Lots 03/03/22/05/L3
- 15# Sportmix Original Cat Lots 03/03/22/05/L2, 03/03/22/05/L3

Consumers should destroy the products and wash and sanitize pet food bowls, cups and storage containers.

The Food and Drug Administration has more information at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

Contact Midwestern Pet Foods Consumer Affairs at 800-474-4163, ext. 455 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday, or by email at [info@midwesternpetfoods.com](mailto:info@midwesternpetfoods.com) for additional information.

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**Hatchery – Egg Truck Driver – Summary of Responsibilities:**

Pick up and delivery of hatching eggs from local farms to local hatchery. Must have valid Class A Commercial Driver License, one year verifiable CDL experience operating Class 8 commercial motor vehicle, clean safety record. Work in biosecure environment, includes Sundays. Sign-On Bonus.

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During the current Pandemic (2020), all Team Members will be required to wear company issued facial coverings. Training will be provided to each Team Member specific to their job and their facility location in addition to signing an acknowledgement form they understand these exceptions.

It is considered an essential function of each job for a Team Member to wear the company issued facial coverings. If a Team Member indicates they will not wear the mask, they will not be considered for the position in which they are applying or any position that requires the facial covering. If a Team Member has a medical condition or disability that prevents them from wearing the mask, Cobb-Vantress, Inc will engage in the interactive process to determine whether a reasonable accommodation can be provided that addresses the safety concerns associated with the Pandemic and allow the Team Member to perform the essential functions of the job.

Tyson is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, national origin, color, religion, age, genetics, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or veteran status.