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

Virtual Board of Education Meeting Scheduled for April 27

Board of Education and County Commissioners to hold joint virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 28

The next Anson County Board of Education meeting will be virtual, held on Monday, April 27 at 10 a.m. The public is invited to dial in. The number is (872) 240-3212, and the access code is 341-984-053.

There will be a joint virtual meeting with the board of education and county commissioners on Tuesday, April 28 at 10 a.m. The public is invited to dial in. The number is (646) 749-3122, and the access code is 514-974-173.

Meeting information for both meetings will also be posted on the board of education doors.

Anson County Has 19 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of April 21

On Tuesday, April 21 the Anson County Health Department reported that Anson County had 19 reported cases of COVID-19, with 10 of those cases active.

In a release from the Health Department on Tuesday: We have a total of nine persons who have returned to their baseline health, since the beginning of this virus in our county.

**We look to be able to discharge at least two patients today when we do our followups.

Please keep in mind that discharge means that the person has gone at least 7 days from symptom onset, and are at least 72 hours without an unmedicated fever and an improvement in symptoms. We hold them until the cough has for sure subsided.

Most of the recent cases have been determined to be community spread. Remember, "community spread" means that the patient does not know where they came in contact with the virus.

The Health Department advises everyone to please continue to observe the following:

1- You should assume EVERY person you come in contact with is potentially infected. Regardless of where you go (down the street or to another zip code, grocery store or fast food).

2- You should assume EVERY surface is potentially contaminated.

3- You should cough into your elbow or your sleeve, NOT your hand (see reason #2).

4- You should be following the governor's stay at home order.

5- You should be following proper hand hygiene.

6- Practice social distancing (6ft)

7- If you exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, body aches, WITHOUT shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or chest discomfort- you are asked to stay home and recover, you do NOT need to be tested, you can self isolate at home, which reduces exposure to others.

8- If you have been around a positive case and have no or even mild symptoms, you do NOT need a test. A positive test result is going to do NOTHING for you. You will only be exposing more persons by seeking this test.

9- Consider Atrium Health's online virtual assessment for COVID-19 and the FREE virtual visit. If a doctor's note is what you need to stay home from work, they can provide you with one, pending that a note is necessary and you are symptomatic.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like Anson County Public Health, CDC, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). For more information, please visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

The Health Department also stated these four items:

1- We would like to remind you that we are unable to respond to comments on our Facebook posts.

2- We do not have any way, at this time, of knowing how many Anson County citizens have been tested. Providers are no longer mandated to report pending tests to the health department and many persons are being tested out of county either at their primary care offices, testing centers or urgent cares.

3- We do have providers in the county that are testing.

4- Regardless of where a person is tested, their positive result is sent to the county of their residence.

We are thankful and happy to be able to continue to serve our community. Stay well!

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday, April 25

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, April 25, from 12:00 noon until 2 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens.

All Ansonians who are seeking help with food will need to apply for assistance. (The new year for qualifying began October 1, 2019). * Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify.

Children are not allowed during this time. All participants who plan to pick up food are asked to bring someone to help them if they need help, as BRLC will no longer be able to provide this support.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual's eligibility. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families who receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are always asked to please fill BRLC's parking lot first. Burnsville Fire & Rescue have made their parking area available for the overflow of neighbors who attend. Please do not arrive before 12 a.m. on Saturday morning. You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check www.burnsvilleelc.org.



Ansonville Elementary School Made and Donated Masks to Atrium Health - Anson

Ansonville Elementary School recently made 3D printed masks and gave them to Atrium Anson to help our local healthcare workers. Thank you Mr. Jones for making these awesome masks.

With the help of Nurse Woods AES was able to donate the masks to Teresa Cochran, Director of Nursing, at our local hospital.

School Principal Michael Vetter said, "Stay safe and healthy everyone, we miss you!"

Public Opinion Being Collected About Health and Healthcare in Anson County

The Anson County Health Department is conducting a study about the needs and quality of health in Anson County. As part of this study, public opinion is being collected through a survey. The survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Anson2020HealthAssessment and through the Health Department's Facebook page.

The study is a Community Health Assessment. The Health Department is partnering with several local organizations, including Atrium Health, to conduct the study and get participation from all Anson County citizens.

"It is very important that we get Anson County citizens to participate in this survey. If we are going to identify and answer the healthcare needs, we must find out directly from the citizens what those needs are," said Dinikia Savage, Community Health Educator with the Anson County Health Department. "We hope that everyone fourteen years of age or over will fill out a survey."

Anson County's Public Health Director, Dr. Fred Thompson, added "All local health departments are required to conduct a Community Health Assessment every three or four years. We are very pleased to be working with our local hospital, Atrium Health Anson, in conducting the 2020 Community Health Assessment. The results of the survey will help us focus and coordinate our health improvement activities in Anson County over the next several years."

A complete report will be developed from the public survey and a review of various statistical information about Anson County. The final results of 2020 Community Health Assessment will be published and available on the Health Department website in April 2021.

Anson County Government Releases Information About Resuming Normal Working Hours

Anson County will continue its reduced schedule through May 1, aligning with Governor Cooper's Stay-at-Home order. On Monday, May 4 Anson County offices will resume normal working hours, but with precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The precautions include, but are not limited to:

- Providing reusable masks for all employees. Face shields, gowns and other PPE will be provided when available and distributed where needed.
 - Implementing and enforcing strict social distancing to include:
 - Limiting the number of people in respective buildings,
 - Making appointments rather serving walk-ins (*where appropriate*),
 - Corresponding via electronic methods rather than in-person
 - Requiring all citizens, clients, and/or visitors to wear a mask upon entering any County building.
- In short, the County will be implementing a "No Mask, No Service" policy.

Governor Cooper Shares Path Forward for North Carolina

Testing, Tracing and Trends will help determine when to loosen restrictions

On Wednesday, April 15 Governor Roy Cooper charted a path forward for eventually easing certain COVID-19 restrictions while still protecting North Carolinians from a dangerous second wave of the virus.

"This virus is going to be with us until there is a vaccine, which may be a year or more away," said Governor Cooper. "That means that as we ease restrictions, we are going to enter a new normal. We want to get back to work while at the same time preventing a spike that will overwhelm our hospitals with COVID-19 cases."

Expert modeling has shown it would be dangerous to lift the restrictions all at once because it would increase the chances that hospitals become overwhelmed and unable to care for severely ill patients. Cooper emphasized that changes in restrictions must protect public health, especially those who are most vulnerable to severe illness, including people over age 65, those with underlying health conditions and people living in congregate settings.

"Experts tell us it would be dangerous to lift our restrictions all at once. Rather than an on/off light switch, we are viewing this as a dimmer switch that can be adjusted incrementally," said Governor Cooper.

In order to ease restrictions, the state needs to make more progress in three areas: testing, tracing and trends.

TESTING State planning relies on an increase in testing capabilities to identify, isolate and track new cases of COVID-19. This means having the supplies and lab capacity to do more testing across the state. Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, has brought together laboratory partners from the public and private sector to coordinate efforts to ensure testing – diagnostic and antibody – is widely available across the state while also conserving protective equipment.

TRACING Tracing requires the state to boost the public health workforce and ability to trace contacts of new cases of COVID-19. Contact tracing can be effective at containing new outbreaks, but it requires more personnel. When a person tests positive, the tracing efforts will help identify who that individual may have been in contact with so those people can get tested and take the right precautions. NC DHHS is working with its partners to increase this critical piece of our public health workforce. New digital tools can also help scale this effort.

TRENDS In order to ease restrictions, the state needs to understand how COVID-19 is impacting the state and impacting specific populations and regions of the state to determine when to strengthen or ease social distancing policies. Trends that will influence policy decisions will be based on data like the new positive cases, hospitalizations, deaths, as well as available supply of personal protective equipment, hospital capacity.

"Because we acted early and because we acted together, we have averted the devastating scenarios we have seen playing out in other parts of our country and across the globe. We now need to look ahead at how we stay ahead of the curve. Widespread testing, aggressive contact tracing, and data-informed policy decisions are our best tools to keep our communities safe and protect our frontline workers," said NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen, MD.

Make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources. For more information on public health, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS' website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which includes daily updates on positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

For more information about economic relief, child care and food services, the state COVID-19 website at www.nc.gov/covid19 includes daily updates on COVID-19 assistance.

North Carolina COVID-19 Information

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit the website ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus or text COVIDNC to 898211. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization website at www.who.int.

Update from the Anson County Historical Society

The Anson County Historical Society's office, library and museums have been closed to the public and will remain closed to the public under Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 121. However, the office staff will be in the office to check mail, emails and answer and return telephone messages from time to time.

Tommy Allen, Historical Society President, said, "We have no public events scheduled for the next 30 days. We will continue to operate under this order until it is lifted. Our quarterly newsletter is on schedule to go out at the end of May. We deeply appreciate the patience of our members and visitors."

Mobile Food Pantry Mobilizes in 24 Hours to Aid Morven Citizens on April 17

On Friday, April 17, in response to the tornado which hit the Morven area earlier in the week, numerous volunteers pulled together a mobile food pantry in a 24 hour period and fed:

- 96 families
- 92 children between 0 and 18
- 121 adults between 19 and 64
- 53 adults over 65.

Margot Barnes, Director of Anson Crisis Ministry said, "Thank you, everyone for the effort."

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Atrium Health Bus will be onsite too. The Anson and East Union Missionary Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be at Wingate United Methodist Church, 111 Hinson Street in Wingate, on Wednesday, May 13.

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