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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 May 19

The next Anson County Board of Education meeting will be virtual, held on Tuesday, May 19 at 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to dial in. The telephone number is (224) 501-3412, and the access code is 210-348-573.

## Anson County Schools Graduation Will be Drive Thru

*This is a release posted to Facebook by Anson County Schools on Tuesday, May 12:* On Saturday, May 23, 2020, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Anson High School, the Anson County Board of Education will be honoring all Anson County High School Graduates during a graduation ceremony designed to comply with Governor Cooper's Executive Order while celebrating this great accomplishment.

The ceremony will follow a drive thru format; seniors will exit their vehicle for his/her Principal to award their diploma. Seniors may have two vehicles for family members to accompany them.

Family members will watch from the vehicle as their Graduate receives his/her diploma. Graduates should wear academic regalia (gowns, caps, tassels, etc. purchased at each school) for the ceremony. Honoring each graduate is important to us so ceremonial music and congratulations from their principal will be incorporated in the program as students pick up diplomas.

### Graduate Participation Directions:

**1.** Graduates should report to the former Walmart parking lot in Wadesboro. Members of the Wadesboro Police Department will be managing traffic. Graduates and their two family vehicles should enter at the Walmart entrance located on the far western side of Highway 74 (former Subway side of Walmart).

**a.** Two vehicles per graduate will be released from the parking lot with directions:

- i.** Exit drive that passes Sonic
- ii.** Turn right on Kitty Bennett Road to Highway 74
- iii.** Turn right on Highway 74 west
- iv.** Turn left at AHS in front of the football field
- v.** Follow directions upon arrival
- vi.** Only the graduate will be allowed to exit vehicles

**2.** While waiting in the former Walmart parking lot, each graduate will get a completed data sheet showing his/her name as printed on his or her diploma. This information needs to be visible as the vehicle enters the AHS campus. Graduates will not arrive in alphabetical order – presentation of diplomas will occur in the order that vehicles exit the Walmart parking when directed by law enforcement.

**3.** Each vehicle will stop as directed at a designated location and observe while your graduate participates in his/her graduation ceremony.

**4.** A photograph will be made of each graduate (additional details will be shared).

**5.** Each vehicle will exit AHS by entering back on Highway 74 and traveling east after the graduates receives his/her diploma.

**6.** Additional details are forthcoming as graduation day approaches to include login options for family and community members to watch graduation remotely and an estimated ending time.

**7.** A plan will be in place for the ceremony to continue at Anson High School if inclement weather occurs.

## Anson County Has 39 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday, May 12

On Tuesday, May 12 the Anson County Health Department reported that Anson County had 39 reported cases of COVID-19, with 11 of those cases active.

**In a release from the Health Department on Tuesday** We are still 39 total reported COVID-19 cases. 11 of the cases are currently active. At this point, we have discharged 28 cases, three were discharged Monday afternoon.

New guidelines came out on May 5 that discharge means that the person has gone at least 10 days from symptom onset (previously 7 days) and are at least 72 hours without a non-medicated fever and symptom improvement - or Absence of fever (without fever-reducing medication), improvement in respiratory symptoms and 2 negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

We still encourage everyone to follow the stay at home order that is still in place.

Also, 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 Phase 1 of the Governor's Stay at Home Order.
- 5- You should be following proper hand hygiene.
- 6- Practice social distancing (6 feet)
- 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.
- 10-Please wear a mask or cloth face covering (that covers your nose and mouth) anytime you are out in public places. Also, as of Monday, May 4th, you are required to wear a mask to enter a County of Anson building for services. Stay well, everyone!

## Emergency Food and Shelter Program Phase 37 and Phase CARES Funds Available

**Application deadline is May 21**

The Anson County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program and supplemental funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Anson County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has been chosen to receive \$9,926 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs (EFSP) and \$14,152 to respond to the COVID-19 impact on communities in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, and consists of representatives from: American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide.

The EFSP Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. The EFSP Local Board, comprised of representatives from the County of Anson, Anson United Way, local chapter of the American Red Cross, Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, Homes for Hope, area church organizations, ministerial associations, homeless shelter(s) and other organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Anson County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government; 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds; 3) have an accounting system; 4) practice nondiscrimination; 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs; and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board.

Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Anson County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Anson Crisis Ministry, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Feed My Lambs, and South Anson Community Outreach Ministry. These agencies were responsible for providing food and hot meals. Qualifying (private voluntary or public) agencies are encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible to: Lula Jackson, Local Board Chair, Anson County Department of Social Services, 118 North Washington Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170, [ljackson@anson.co.nc.us](mailto:ljackson@anson.co.nc.us), (704) 694-9351. Applications can be faxed (704-694-1608) or emailed. Application deadline is May 21, 2020.

## Anson Regional Medical Services (ARMS) Receives \$142,099 Grant for COVID-19 Testing

Anson Regional Medical Services in Wadesboro has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$142,099 by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The award is a part of more than \$12 million that was awarded to 39 North Carolina HRSA funded health care centers to support expanded COVID-19 testing. This award is part of the Health Care Enhancement Act and Paycheck Protection Program. The funding will be used to expand the range of testing and testing-related activities including the expansion of walk-up or drive-up testing capabilities, as well as the purchase of additional protective resources, laboratory services, training for staff, and expanded outreach.

More than \$919 million in grants have been provided to health care providers and health systems in North Carolina and \$34 million in grants to North Carolina health care centers to assist efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic. An additional \$391 million has been granted to North Carolina health care providers who provided care for COVID-19 patients, including high-impact hospitals, rural providers, and those treating low-income and uninsured patients. The funding comes from the CARES Act.

## Governor Cooper Announced Modified Stay At Home Order and Transition to Phase 1 of Easing Restrictions

**New order took effect Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m. Personal care businesses, entertainment venues, gyms to remain closed.**

On Tuesday, May 5 Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No. 138 to modify North Carolina's Stay At Home order and transition to Phase 1 of slowly easing certain COVID-19 restrictions effective Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m. Certain businesses remain closed as the state continues battling COVID-19.

"COVID-19 is still a serious threat to our state, and Phase 1 is designed to be a limited easing of restrictions that can boost parts of our economy while keeping important safety rules in place," said Governor Cooper. "This is a careful and deliberate first step, guided by the data, and North Carolinians still must use caution while this virus is circulating."

"We must continue to protect our families and neighbors as we take this cautious step forward. When you leave your home, follow the three W's: Wear a face covering, wash your hands, and wait six feet apart," said Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

The Order removes the distinction between essential and non-essential businesses. Retail businesses are allowed to open at 50% capacity and will be required to direct customers to stand 6 feet apart, perform frequent cleanings, provide hand sanitizer when available, screen workers for symptoms and more. The Order allows people to leave their homes for commercial activity at any business that is open.

Certain businesses remain closed, including bars, personal care businesses, entertainment venues, and gyms. Restaurants may only continue to serve customers for drive-through, take out and delivery.

All workers at retail and other businesses are recommended to wear cloth face coverings. Teleworking is still encouraged for businesses that can practice it.

Though small outdoor gatherings will be allowed in Phase 1, gatherings of more than 10 people generally are still prohibited. The Order encourages cloth face coverings to be worn when outside the home and in contact with others. Everyone who uses a face covering should adhere to this guidance without fear of profiling or bias.

During Phase 1, childcare facilities will be open to serve families of parents who are working or looking for work. These centers will be required to follow strict cleaning protocols. Summer day camps can operate in compliance with NC DHHS guidelines.

The order is in effect until 5 p.m. on Friday, May 22. However, the end of this Order does not necessarily mean the state will move to Phase 2. Phase 2 will only start if data and indicators are in the right place.

In explaining the Order, Governor Cooper and Secretary Cohen reported North Carolina remains stable on the following key metrics:

- **Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days** North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing.
- **Trajectory of Lab-Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over the last 14 days cases is slightly increasing.
- **Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over the last 14 days is decreasing.
- **Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations over the last 14 days is level.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to be able to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread. These areas include:

- Laboratory Testing - North Carolina has doubled the daily testing rate.
- Tracing Capability - The Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative has received over 4,000 applications and is in the process of hiring 250 new contact tracers.
- Personal Protective Equipment - Supply chains continue to improve with the exception of gowns.

## Over 100 Free Computers Distributed at HOLLA!

The Caraway Foundation distributed free computers at the HOLLA! Center in Morven on Friday and Saturday of last week. The foundation gave away over 100 free computers.

According to Angela Caraway, Director of the Caraway Foundation the generous giveaway was made possible with their partnership with the Kramden Institute of Durham, NC.

## North Carolina 2-1-1 Offers Information on Your Phone and Online

**What is NC 2-1-1?** NC 2-1-1 is an information and referral service provided by United Way of North Carolina. Accessible via an easy-to-remember, three-digit number, families and individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on health and human services and resources within their community. Dial 211 or visit [www.nc211.org](http://www.nc211.org).

**When can I call NC 2-1-1?** 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Dialing 2-1-1 is free, confidential, and available in most languages.

**Is NC 2-1-1 statewide?** NC 2-1-1 is available by landline, cell phone, and VOIP in all 100 counties of North Carolina.

**What information is available by dialing 2-1-1?** NC 2-1-1 maintains a robust database with information on thousands of programs and services in North Carolina. We refer callers to organizations in their local community best equipped to address their specific health and human services needs including food, shelter, energy assistance, housing, parenting resources, health-care, substance abuse, as well as specific resources for older adults and for persons with disabilities, and much more.

When an individual calls NC 2-1-1, a trained call specialist will conduct a search based on his or her geographic location to identify resources based on the caller's current needs. In addition to contact information for the community resource, the call specialist will provide eligibility requirements, the intake process for a program, the hours of operation, any requirements for appointments, and accessibility information, when available.

**What role does NC 2-1-1 play in the event of a disaster?** NC 2-1-1 is a member of the State Emergency Response Team and is part of the State's Emergency Plan. In the event of a natural or public disaster, NC 2-1-1 is a public information portal for residents to obtain real-time communications and resources related to the disaster. Caller needs are tracked in order to provide information on trends and local circumstances that residents are facing to emergency managers.

In 2016, more than 12,000 North Carolinians dialed 2-1-1 to get information on emergency evacuations, shelters, meal sites, water and food distributions, and post disaster clean-up and recovery assistance during Hurricane Matthew.

**Does the online search tool provide the same results as dialing 2-1-1?**

The online database is the same database used by the call specialists. However, our call specialists are trained to search using specific keywords which may provide additional resources. If you don't find what you need online, we strongly encourage you to dial 2-1-1. Call specialists are available 24/7/365 to help.

**What types of organizations are included in the database?** The database includes non-profit organizations and government agencies that provide health and human services to citizens in North Carolina based on specific inclusion criteria.

More information is available at [www.nc211.org](http://www.nc211.org).