

ARMS Offering Drive-Thru Testing and Covid Vaccines in October

Anson Regional Medical Services (ARMS) will conduct Drive-Thru Vaccine clinics at their clinic, located at 203 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, on the following dates:

- Monday, October 17, from 8 to 11 a.m.
- Monday, October 24, from 8 to 11 a.m.

Vaccines Available: Moderna Shot 1, Shot 2, and the new Moderna Bi-valent. You cannot receive the new Moderna Bi-Valent Vaccine unless you have completed a Moderna, Pfizer or J&J vaccine series. You must present your vaccine administration card.

COVID-19 Testing will also be available.

No appointment is necessary, and there is no charge for testing and vaccination. For more information call 704-694-6700.

The "Spanish" Flu Pandemic of 1918

The Flu: From 1914 to 1918, the world was consumed by violence and death; the First World War resulted in many millions of deaths from machine guns, artillery, submarines, and poison gas. Amidst this worldwide slaughter, another killer emerged in 1918; influenza. Likely originating in Camp Funston, Kansas, the flu struck in three waves. The first wave was a mild one. It was spread around the world by soldier's traveling from base to base, from battlefield to battlefield. In the autumn of 1918, the second wave struck. The second wave of influenza was devastating and unlike many other types of flu. Most flu deaths occur in the very young and very old. If you were to make a chart of flu deaths, it would usually form a U, high among the very old and young, but with few deaths in the middle.

The 1918 flu's mortality was more like a W; the young and strong died just as often as the young and old. This is because the virus would turn the immune system against you, leaving you even more vulnerable to pneumonia after the flu ravaged your lungs. The third wave came just weeks after the second wave ended, in early December, and was also highly lethal. The flu finally began to run out of steam by early 1920, since most victims were now immune.

Why "Spanish" Flu? The flu was called "Spanish Influenza" after Spanish newspapers reported on the epidemic, giving the false impression it originated in Spain. Spain was not at war, and its press was not censored, so the newspapers could report on the flu, unlike in negative news was censored to avoid impacting wartime morale.

The Impact of the Flu: The flu was a gruesome killer; victims bled from their eyes, ears, and noses. Lack of oxygen to the blood made people turn blue, sometimes even becoming a gruesome black, or an eerie mahogany color. Intense fever, chills, earaches, horrible pains in the bones, and horribly inflamed lungs were common. It was said that the lungs of influenza victims looked like those of a victim of poison gas. Influenza also caused delirium and psychosis; 100 patients were admitted to a hospital in New York with schizophrenia-like symptoms for years before they were discharged. President Woodrow Wilson caught the flu during the negotiating of the Treaty of Versailles and he was reportedly never the same afterward, imposing harsh penalties on Germany instead of the "peace without victory" he originally wanted. Hospitals were filled with the dead and the dying; it was said that a doctor saw his patient twice; once when they were admitted, and then when the death certificate was filed. Bodies piled up, stacked up "like cordwood" in hallways, and in some cases, like in Philadelphia, buried in mass graves dug by steam-shovel. To contain the flu, public gathering places like movie theaters and churches were closed. Masks were worn to contain the spread, but because influenza has an incubation period where one could spread the disease without symptoms.

The Flu in North Carolina: In North Carolina, at least 13,600 people died of influenza; 13 times as many North Carolinians died of influenza than those fighting on the battlefields in France. The above comic points this out; one soldier is gunned down, but many people are infected from a sneeze, just as deadly as the machine gun. However, the number of 13,600 is likely far below the actual number, due to the difficulty of collecting data at the time, and underreporting deaths to keep wartime morale high; in 2020, the Charlotte Observer discovered that over 2/3rds of flu deaths were not reported by the board of health to avoid mass panic.

The Flu in Union County: The first victim of influenza in Union County is believed to have been Mr. Steve Edwards of Goose Creek, a 24-year-old farmer who died of pneumonia following influenza on October 11, 1918. There was no county hospital, but there were 5 drug stores and 15 doctors in the county. Medicines used to try to ease the symptoms of influenza included quinine, Vicks, castor oil, mustard plasters, and herbal teas such as sassafras, rhubarb compounds, and black snake root and in some cases, whiskey and honey. The only funeral home in operation in the county at the time was the T. P. Dillon Funeral Home in Monroe; often, the only attendee of a funeral was the funeral director, the surviving family having fallen ill. The able-bodied built coffins to keep up the demand, and it is said that Mr. McEwen of McEwen's Funeral Home got his start in the funerary business by building coffins for the dead of the 1918 pandemic. The sick were often too weak to leave their beds, and the handful of healthy members of a family would have to care for them, feeding them, handling all the household chores; Robert Henry Allan's entire family, with the sole exception of 14 year old Bert, fell ill, and she had to care for all of them.

Charles Marvin Hasty: This portrait is of a young man, Marvin Hasty, who died of pneumonia after contracting influenza in 1918. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hasty, he was a well-liked young man, and was only 17 when he died on December 22, 1918, struck down by the third wave of influenza.

The Death Toll: The 1918 influenza pandemic is believed to have killed anywhere from 21 million to over 100 million people worldwide; possibly 5% of the entire planet's population. It killed somewhere around 670,000 Americans when the population was only 120 million; roughly 0.65% of the population. More US soldiers died of the 1918 pandemic than died in combat in the Vietnam War. It is believed that over 500 million people were infected; roughly one-third of the entire planet's population. COVID-19 has killed, at the time of the writing of this article, roughly 6 million people. Article courtesy of the Marshville Museum and Cultural Center

Polkton FUNDAY

VENDORS RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Polkton Fun Day is now accepting vendor applications

The Town of Polkton will host its annual Polkton Fun Day on Saturday, October 22, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All interested vendors can call to request an emailed application or pick up an application at:

**Polkton Town Hall
35 West Polk Street
Polkton, NC 28135**

For any questions regarding Polkton Fun Day, please call:
Jerricka Napier 704-690-3729



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