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

605 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County as of September 28

As of Monday, September 28 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 605 reported cases of COVID-19. 56 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 549 cases, 545 to baseline health and four deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, September 28 there were 208,248 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,445 deaths. 2,999,853 completed tests and 897 currently 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 9 - 328 cases; August 19 - 376 cases, August 26 - 408 cases, September 4 - 461 cases, September 14 - 513 cases, September 21 - 553 cases.

Health Department Offers Drive-Thru Flu Shots

Fall has arrived and the temperature is slightly dropping, a sign that Flu season is approaching. This fall, Anson County Health Department wants to inform the public about Influenza (Flu) and how the department can help prevent the deadly virus. The CDC is also urging everyone to get a flu shot this year to avoid a "twindemic" Covid-19. Influenza, or the flu, and COVID-19 have several similarities, according to the CDC. They're both contagious respiratory illnesses, but the two are caused by different viruses.

Getting a flu shot also can limit the possibility of contracting the flu and COVID-19 at the same time, which the CDC said is possible. Health experts are still studying how common this can be, according to the CDC.

In the United States, flu is detected year-round, however, it is most common during the fall and winter months. Influenza activity often begins to increase in October and November. Flu activity peaks between December and February and can last as late as May. During these times, both Flu and Covid-19 are determined to spread.

Flu is a transmittable breathing illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. Similar to Covid-19, it can also cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. Flu is different from a cold and can come on suddenly. Flu symptoms involve: fever; cough; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; body aches; headache; chills; fatigue; and sometimes diarrhea and vomiting.

Although fever symptoms are included, not everyone may have a fever when catching flu.

Research shows that flu is spread through tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These tiny droplets can land on people nearby. People with flu are most contagious the first 3-4 days. Although some are not fond of wearing facial coverings, the CDC said evidence shows facial coverings can prevent or slow the spread of the flu in the same way they can slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Center for disease control (CDC) recommends everyone over the age of 6 months should get the flu vaccine each season. It is especially important for the following high risk groups:

- Pregnant Women
- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu fatigue
- Health Care workers
- Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
- Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age.

The Anson County Health Department will start providing flu shots to the public through our drive-thru clinic on Wednesdays beginning September 30th. The influenza shots will be given at the convenience of the patients' car by appointment only.

The health department accepts the following Primary Insurance for the influenza vaccination: Medicare, Medicaid, Medcost, Aetna, Cigna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and United Healthcare. Children without insurance coverage ages 6 months thru 18 years of age may receive a free influenza vaccination.

Please bring in all insurance cards for verification of primary insurance coverage. Cost for individuals without active primary insurance coverage: Influenza \$61, High Dose Influenza \$101, Pneumonia \$161

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

The Health Department's hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for lunch.)

If you have any questions, or would like to schedule an appointment, please call Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188 or 704-994-3321. For further information contact Dinikia Savage at (704) 994-3342.

COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard

Starting September 25, the NCDHHS began reporting on two new measures on the NC COVID-19 Data Dashboards: 1) Antigen-positive cases and deaths and 2) Antigen tests completed. The Antigen Positive Cases Data: FAQ (link at Dashboard) explains data elements on the dashboards that have been updated and provides additional information on antigen and molecular testing. The Dashboard website is: covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard.

Knowing when to dial up or down measures that slow the spread of the virus depends on North Carolina's testing, tracing and trends. This dashboard provides an overview on the metrics and capacities that the state is following.



Pictured above are Seth Allen, Pee Dee Electric Communication Specialist, and Donnie Spivey, Pee Dee Electric CEO.

Pee Dee Electric Earns 5 Star Co-op Designation

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recently awarded Pee Dee Electric as a 5 Star Co-op. This recognition is given to cooperatives who encourage members' involvement in the Co-ops Vote campaign, promote civic engagement, and encourage communities to get out and vote! The non-partisan campaign seeks to engage voters and boost voter turnout in areas served by electric co-ops all across the country.

Co-ops Vote is a project of America's Electric Cooperatives designed to inform its members on the key issues facing electric co-ops and encourage them to vote and support their co-ops and the communities they serve when they go to the polls. They do not endorse or recommend any candidates for election.

"Electric cooperatives play a unique and special role as a voice in their communities," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. "Elections are important, especially in rural areas. Five-star status marks the highest level of engagement in Co-ops Vote."

About NRECA NRECA is the service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. With 42 million members in 47 states, electric co-ops can stand together as a powerful voice in this year's elections.

NCDHHS Updates Nursing Home Visitation Order

As North Carolina's key metrics continue to remain stable and strong infection prevention and control requirements remain in place, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services issued a Secretarial Order on September 28 updating visitation guidelines for nursing homes to allow indoor visitation.

"We have focused on protecting the health of nursing home residents since the start of this crisis. Our progress in testing, infection control and slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities allows us to move forward with safe indoor visitation in accordance with federal guidance," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

Indoor visitation will only be permitted in nursing homes with no COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and in counties with a percent positive testing rate of less than 10%, reflecting guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The updated order reflects the state's dimmer switch approach to responsibly ease restrictions, while maintaining strong prevention measures. North Carolina continues to build on the early and aggressive actions it took to protect nursing home residents and staff. In addition to restricting visitation at the start of the pandemic, the state has provided personal protective equipment; helped fill staffing shortages; provided infection prevention and control training, support teams and targeted funding; mandated testing; and completed on-site infection control inspections of North Carolina's more than 400 nursing homes.

Local community transmission levels are the key factor for nursing home outbreaks, emphasizing the importance of community-wide adoption of proven prevention practices (the 3 Ws). Facilities allowing in-person visitation will be required to follow strict infection prevention guidelines.

Throughout NCDHHS's pandemic response, its five-point strategy for long-term care facilities has focused on prevention, staffing, testing, outbreak management and oversight. The department's innovative universal testing strategy within skilled nursing facilities has been cited by the Rockefeller Foundation as a national model.

Free Groceries for Families in Need October 1

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Mission Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, October 1 at Peachland United Methodist Church, located at 19 Allen Street in Peachland. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, usually between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, baskets, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8 to 10:30 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household. Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email: tschumpert@wnccumc.net.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.

Hornwood on Business North Carolina's 2020 Top 125 Privately Held Companies List

This is a release from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce: Business North Carolina released their annual list of the state's top 125 largest privately held companies in their September issue. The list is based on 2019 revenue. Hence, it reflects pre-COVID-19.

Congratulations to Hornwood, Inc. with making the list at number 123.

Who is Hornwood?

Hornwood is a service-oriented, solution based vertical manufacturer of warp and circular knitted fabrics. Hornwood's manufacturing processes include warping, knitting, dyeing, finishing, face finishing, and inspection, along with a fully functional color development and physical testing lab. Hornwood thrives on driving innovation and creating value for all customers.

Hornwood history Hornwood has been in continuous operation since 1946 when it was founded by Ken Horne and Fred Wood. Anson County, North Carolina has served as the home to Hornwood since the doors first opened. Over the years, Hornwood outgrew a couple of facilities, but has been in the same location since 1971, when it moved from Wadesboro to Lilesville. The current facility is 300,000 square feet.



Pictured above, flanking a portrait of Ken Horne, founder of Hornwood, are Wesley Horne (left) and Chuck Horne.

Free Covid Testing October 3

Church of God of Prophecy in Morven will offer free COVID-19 testing on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is held in coordination with HOLLA! and the Advanced Center for Covid Related Dispariteis (Accord) of NC Central University.

For more information and to pre-register call Dannie Montgomery at 704-694-8326.

The Church of God of Prophecy is located at 8477 Highway 52 South in Morven.

Living Healthy with Diabetes is Possible

The Grace Senior Center is sponsoring a Living Healthy with Diabetes virtual workshop. The classes are designed to help you better manage your Diabetes and live a happier, healthier, active life!

Whether you have been recently diagnosed with diabetes, pre diabetic, have had diabetes for years or don't want to become a diabetic, this workshop will give the support you need to find practical ways to deal with your stress, discover better nutrition and physical activity choices, and learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health.

Previous participants have stated they have benefited from this class more than any other diabetes class they have attended. We learn from each other and figure out the ways that work best for each individual.

The Living Healthy with Diabetes classes will be held virtually. This is a six week class that is scheduled for every Thursday from 1:30pm to 4:00pm starting October 1 through November 12. The Oct 1st class will be a short practice session.

There is no fee and participants will receive weekly incentives for attending.

Call to register today: Rita Short at 704-694-6217 or 704-994-3494 and start living healthy! E-mail: rshort@co.anson.nc.us.

Community Outreach Offers Household Items on October 10

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Community Outreach Event this Saturday, October 10 at 10 a.m. They are offering household items and paper products on a first come, first served basis.

The event will be held at 118 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for the event, please call 843-623-3777. The website is: www.logomchurch.com.