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720 Reported Cases of COVID-19

Health Department encourages everyone to wear a mask to protect themselves and others

On Tuesday, October 20 the Health Department reported another death, bring the county total to nine deaths. As of Monday, October 26 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 720 reported cases of COVID-19. 41 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 679 cases, 670 to baseline health and nine deaths.

In a release the Health Department stated, "With the number of cases rising in our state, we would like to encourage people to take a part in protecting themselves and others. Remember to wear a mask, keep distance from others, wash your hands often, and download the free SLOWCOVID app. Learn more about the notification app at covid19.ncdhhs.gov/SlowCOVIDNC. #StayStrongNC. Let's all do our part!"

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, October 26 there were 261,742 total cases of COVID-19, with 4,170 deaths, 3,863,108 completed tests and 1,193 currently hospitalized.

As of Monday, October 19 there were 247,172 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,939 deaths, 3,640,086 completed tests and 1,142 currently hospitalized, and as of October 13 there were 234,481 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,816 deaths, 3,437,598 completed tests and 1,103 currently hospitalized. On Monday, October 5 there were 219,754 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 completed tests and 971 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; September 28 - 605 cases; October 5 - 649 cases; October 12 - 670 cases; October 19 - 692 cases.



Loba-Wakol Officially Opens New Wadesboro Facility October 26

This is a release from AnsonEDP: Loba-Wakol North America hosted more than two dozen community leaders on Monday, October 26 for the official opening of their new North American headquarters in Wadesboro. The event was originally scheduled for June and was to include representatives from the German parent companies, but was rescheduled due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions.

Loba-Wakol announced in May of 2019 that they would be moving their HQ from Charlotte to the Anson County town about an hour east of the city. The company looked at more than 65 buildings in the Charlotte region before choosing Wadesboro, according to Ashley Carter, Loba-Wakol NA COO. The company, a leading supplier of adhesives and finishes to the wood and resilient flooring industry, began renovations on the building shortly after the announcement, including the demolition of the former office area and the construction of a new office tower. In all, Loba-Wakol is investing \$6.6 million in the project which initially created 24 jobs, but will ultimately create up to 50 with the addition of a manufacturing component in 2021. Loba-Wakol is located at 2732 Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, in the facilities that were formerly JJ Haines.

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Less Than 1 Week Until Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment Begins!

NC Navigators stand ready to safely assist North Carolinians during the COVID pandemic

NC Navigators are here to help North Carolinians safely enroll in affordable health insurance plans via HealthCare.gov during the Affordable Care Act's eighth open enrollment period, which starts Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 15.

Throughout open enrollment, North Carolina consumers can call 1-855-733-3711 (toll-free) or visit ncnavigator.net to schedule a free, confidential, remote appointment with a certified NC Navigator in their area.

Fast Facts Act fast! Time is limited! Open enrollment runs from November 1 to December 15.

- Call or click for assistance! Toll-free: 1-855-733-3711 · Online: ncnavigator.net
- Coronavirus is covered! Testing and treatment for Coronavirus is covered in all Health Insurance Marketplace plans!
- Financial assistance is available! Nine in 10 North Carolinians enrolled in a HealthCare.gov plan receive financial assistance. Navigators can help consumers determine eligibility for financial assistance.

In order to provide high quality assistance while maintaining health and safety during the pandemic, consumers will be able to book enrollment appointments that will be held via telephone or online web conferencing. In-person enrollment opportunities will be limited this open enrollment period. Check out the events calendar on ncnavigator.net for a current list of web-based and limited in-person events.

NC Navigators are trained to help consumers enroll in coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace at HealthCare.gov, the online storefront that consumers can visit to browse and enroll in affordable, comprehensive health insurance plans. NC Navigators can help consumers understand the details of the plans available on HealthCare.gov, determine their eligibility for financial assistance, and provide unbiased support in completing the enrollment process.

"We want consumers to know that health coverage is more important than ever during this pandemic and assistance by a navigator is needed more than ever for so many. We are here to help in a safe and socially distant way during this open enrollment period," Mark Van Arnem, director of the Consortium, said.

"Nine in ten North Carolinians who enrolled in a HealthCare.gov plan during the last open enrollment period received financial help that lowered the monthly cost of their coverage to an average of less than \$61.00. Our navigators are ready to help consumers accurately determine if they are eligible for financial assistance and, if so, help them enroll in a quality, affordable health insurance plans that is the right fit for their needs and their budget."

Following the Data, NC Will Remain Paused in Phase 3

Gov. Cooper & health officials urge North Carolinians to recommit to prevention efforts

On Wednesday, October 21 Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina will remain paused in Phase 3 for three more weeks as health officials continue to monitor North Carolina's viral trends. North Carolina has seen increased hospitalizations and trajectory of cases in recent weeks. Governor Cooper underscored the importance of wearing masks, social distancing, and using good judgment despite fatigue or frustration with the pandemic.

"As this pandemic continues, I know it's difficult and tiring to keep up our guard, especially when we're gathered with people we love. But it's necessary. No one wants to spread COVID-19 accidentally to friends or family, so we must keep prevention at the forefront," said Governor Cooper. "Wearing a mask shows you care about people. Wearing a mask is an easy way to protect our communities and look out for each other. Confronting the virus head on and doing our part as individuals is good for our health and good for our economy."

Also today, Governor Cooper updated on progress with the NC Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) program. Since Governor Cooper announced the (HOPE) Program last week, 12,000 eligible applicants have filed for assistance. The HOPE Program provides assistance to eligible low-and-moderate income renters experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic by making direct payments to landlords and utility companies. People can apply for help by calling 2-1-1 or going to nc211.org/hope.

"As the number of applications climbs higher every day, it should make us remember that it's more than a number. Every one of those applications represents a family having to make impossible choices between basic necessities during a global pandemic," said Governor Cooper.

Yesterday, Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Mandy Cohen and Secretary of Department of Public Safety Erik Hooks sent a letter to local officials in communities with increased viral spread urging their continued action in fighting COVID-19 and suggesting additional measures to mitigate its spread. Read more about that letter here.

"We are doing everything we can to slow the spread of this virus. This simple fact is we can't do it on our own. Ignoring the virus doesn't make it go away - just the opposite," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "As hard as this is, it will end. We will get through this. Let's do it by looking out for one another. Whatever your reason, get behind the mask."

Survive the Frightful Trip on Halloween by Traveling Sober

To help spread the message that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving, the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program (NCGHSP) is teaming up with law enforcement, traffic safety officials and crash survivors to remind everyone of the dangers of drunk driving. The NCGHSP alerted the public that officers will be out conducting increased patrols Oct. 26 - Nov. 1 to identify and remove impaired drivers from our roads during the annual Halloween "Booze It & Lose It" campaign.

Candlelight Vigil October 29 to Remember Victims of Domestic Violence

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) website, Domestic Violence Awareness month was first observed in 1987. Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) participates in the Silent Witness program during the month of October to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

During October life-sized wooden figures will be placed in the county, each one bearing the name of a person who once lived, worked, had friends and family - whose life ended violently at the hands of a partner, spouse, ex-spouse or acquaintance.

Gail Dove from ACDVC said, "Domestic Violence often goes unreported. In Anson County, from July 2018 to June 2019, ACDVC assisted 347 victims of domestic violence; 309 were female and 38 were males. The age bracket with the highest incident is 26-40 years old. We had 441 calls to our crisis hotline. According to statistics, one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by their intimate partner. According to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, every nine seconds a woman is assaulted. From October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 there were 52 domestic violence related deaths in North Carolina alone."

On Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. a candlelight vigil will be held at the front steps of the Anson Courthouse. ACDVC invites anyone who has a friend or loved one represented here or if you have been or know someone that has been affected by domestic violence to come and join everyone during this special time of remembrance.

This year's vigil will be a little different than previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the public is asked to still come out in support of victims and their families. ACDVC asks that you wear a mask and observe social distancing precautions.

The known victims in Anson County include: Argatha H. Clark, Cindy B. McIntyre, Rebecca B. Morrow, Connie Newton, Laura Parker, Mary Polk, Danette Streater, Mary Jane Suess, Linda Kay Walters, Daisy Coleman Melton, Larry Thomas Lindsey, Jennifer Howell, Sherri Feely Marshall, Elnora Sturdivant, Doretha Smith, Rodney Smith, Kim Campbell, Joseph Michael Hall, two unnamed victims, and two unborn children.

For more information please contact the staff at Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center at 704-694-4499. Their 24 hour crisis line is 704-690-0362.

Free Groceries for Families in Need

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missional Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, November 4 at Austin Grove Baptist Church, located at 5919 Austin Grove Church Road in Marshville. 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@wncumc.net. The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need. 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.

Sheriff's Trunk or Treat Event Cancelled

Sheriff Landric Reid and the Anson County Sheriff's Office has had to cancel the annual Trunk or Treat event this year due to COVID-19.



Aimee Colf Recognized with Distinguished Service Award

Aimee Colf, Horticulture and Forestry Agent at the Anson County Cooperative Extension, received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NCACAA) during the 2020 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

Colf was one of several honorees who represent the top two percent of the membership selected by their peers and the Director of Extension. She has served as an agricultural agent in Anson County for 14 years, addressing commercial and consumer horticultural issues as well as those related to forestry and natural resources.

Colf continues to provide technical assistance to new and existing farmers, share information on evolving food safety regulations, and address ag production issues. She assists private forest landowners with forest management plans related to NC Present-Use Value, and works with home gardeners.

Colf collaborates with several local agencies, schools, and community groups to develop programs that help youth appreciate and understand the value of natural resources and local agriculture.

Colf earned her Master's Degree in Horticulture in 2013, and co-authored the Organic Gardening chapter for the revised NC Master Gardener Handbook published in 2019.

The NCACAA stated that they are proud to recognize Anson Extension's agriculture agent, Aimee Colf, as recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for her professional accomplishments and dedicated service to forest landowners, farmers, and all residents of Anson County.

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