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

827 Reported Cases of COVID-19

As of Monday, November 16 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 827 reported cases of COVID-19. 64 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 763 cases, 750 to baseline health and thirteen 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 SLOWCOVID app. Learn more about the free SlowCOVIDNC Exposure Notification app at covid19.ncdhs.gov/SlowCOVIDNC. #StayStrongNC. Let's all do our part!"

The NC Department of Health and Human Services reported statewide as of Tuesday, November 17 there were 314,207 total cases of COVID-19, with 4,814 deaths, 4,644,683 completed tests and 1,424 hospitalized.

As of Monday, November 2 there were 278,028 total cases of COVID-19, with 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 completed tests and 1,146 hospitalized. On Monday, Oct. 5 there were 219,754 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 completed tests and 971 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; October 26 - 720 cases; November 2 - 738 cases; November 9 - 773 cases.

School Board Meeting November 23

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular board meeting on Monday, November 23. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. with Closed Session, and Open Session to the public will begin at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be live streamed through YouTube. The public is invited to watch the meeting by following the Anson County Schools Youtube Channel beginning at 5:30 p.m. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

Due to live streaming the meeting, if the public wishes to sign up for public comment they can go to the public comment link at www.ansoncountyschools.org to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on October 26. Open Session to the public begins at 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education welcomes comments from parents, students, and the community. The public comment period is open for members of the public to voice compliments, concerns, or complaints about matters of public concern, the performance of school personnel, implementation of board policy, the quality of the education program or school facilities, or other matters. The Public Comment portion of the meeting is for the Board to hear matters of interest or concern from the public; however, obscene or vulgar statements, personal attacks and statements reasonably perceived to be disruptive or imminently threatening to the orderly operation of the meeting shall not be permitted. Comments are limited to three minutes per submission, and a maximum of 30 minutes will be devoted to the public comment portion of the agenda.

North Carolina 2-1-1 Offers Info 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.

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. They 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, healthcare, 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.



Pee Dee Electric Celebrates the 2020 Bright Ideas Winners!

Pee Dee Electric was able to "socially distant" surprise educators who won 2020 Bright Ideas Grants! This year, Pee Dee Electric awarded \$14,115 in Bright Ideas education grants to 11 local teachers to fund engaging projects for their students. More than 1,000 students at schools in Anson, Richmond, Scotland and Stanly counties will benefit from these grants.

The Bright Ideas grant applications are accepted by Pee Dee Electric each year from April through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2021.

The Bright Ideas grant program is part of Pee Dee Electric's ongoing commitment to building a brighter future through community support of education.

- Anson County Winners**
- Peachland-Polkton Elementary – Alice Carpenter, Kelly Miles, Lora Wyatt and Wendy Hildreth (from left, bottom photo)
 - Anson High School – Patty Livingston (top right photo) pictured with Seth Allen from Pee Dee Electric
 - Lilesville Elementary – Kayla Boerner (top middle photo)
 - Ansonville Elementary – Justin Jones (top left photo)

North Carolina Lowers Indoor Gathering Limit to 10 to Slow Spread of COVID-19

Gov. Cooper & health officials urge North Carolinians to use caution when planning Thanksgiving events; follow the Three Ws

Governor Roy Cooper announced on November 10 that North Carolina's indoor mass gathering limit will be lowered to 10 people in an effort to drive down North Carolina's key COVID-19 metrics. Executive Order 176 will go into effect on Friday, November 13 and will be in place through Friday, December 4.

"This reduction in our indoor gathering limit aims to slow the spread and bring down our numbers," Governor Cooper said. "It also sends a serious signal to families, friends and neighbors across our state. Success in slowing the spread will help our businesses."

As the weather gets colder, more people will be gathering indoors. Science has shown that indoor gatherings increase risk of transmission of COVID-19, and this Executive Order seeks to limit indoor gatherings that could rapidly and dangerously spread the virus.

The Order does not change the reduced capacity limits for certain businesses that have already been laid out. For more on this, read the Frequently Asked Questions document.

Governor Cooper and NC DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen also underscored the need for people to wear a mask anytime they gather with people outside of their immediate household. As the holiday season approaches, NCDHHS released health guidance to help people celebrate as safely as possible without spreading the virus.

"Let's keep our friends, family, and loved ones safe this holiday season. If you are going to travel or get together, plan ahead to reduce the risk to your family and friends," said NCDHHS Secretary Cohen. "Remember, it's not how well you know someone when it comes to wearing a mask. If they don't live with you, get behind the mask."

Dr. Cohen also provided an update on North Carolina's data and trends.

- **Trajectory in COVID-Like Illness (CLI) Surveillance Over 14 Days** North Carolina's syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing but still elevated.
- **Trajectory of Confirmed Cases Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of cases is increasing.
- **Trajectory in Percent of Tests Returning Positive Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory in percent of tests returning positive is level but above 5 percent.
- **Trajectory in Hospitalizations Over 14 Days** North Carolina's trajectory of hospitalizations is level but high.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread in testing, tracing and prevention.

Testing Testing capacity is high

Tracing Capability The state is continuing to hire contact tracers to bolster the efforts of local health departments. There have been almost 350,000 downloads of the exposure notification app, SlowCOVIDNC.

Personal Protective Equipment North Carolina's personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies are stable.

Also, on November 10 Governor Cooper announced that full-service restaurants are now eligible for assistance through the Mortgage, Utility and Rent Relief Program (MURR) administered by the NC Department of Commerce.

These businesses may apply for up to 4 months of rent or mortgage interest capped at \$20,000 per location for up to 2 locations. Businesses can learn more and apply by visiting www.nccommerce.com/murr.

Writers' Club Annual Contests with New Rules

Due to the ongoing pandemic the Anson County Writers' Club has changed its usual format to all-electronic entries for 2020. Entries will be limited to high school and adult submissions, and all entry fees are waived.

Submissions in Word should be emailed to: info@ansoncountywritersclub.org with "contest" in the subject line. By submitting, the writer is giving permission for their work to be included in the Club's anthology, "Anson Pathways." There should be three attachments: A cover sheet giving the name of the writer and the category they are entering, such as John Smith, Poetry, (Name of) High School, or Jane Doe, Prose, Adult; and two copies of the work, one with no contact information and one with the writer's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Prose entries are limited to 2,000 words and poetry to no more than 32 lines.

A complete list of rules can be found on the Club's website, ansoncountywritersclub.org. Failure to follow the rules may result in an entry being disqualified. Winners will be announced in February 2021.

The contest is open until 5:00 p.m. on December 7, 2020.

Thanksgiving Event Cancelled

The Senior Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner at Harmony Community Church that was scheduled for Saturday, November 21 has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Pastor at Harmony is Rocky Carpenter. It is located at 1984 Pulpwood Yard Road in Peachland. The telephone number is 704-272-8193.

Free Groceries for Families in Need December 2

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missionary Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, December 2 at Pleasant Hill UMC, located at 126 Church Street in McFarlan. 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@wnc-cumc.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.