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

## 2,056 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, February 1 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,056 reported cases of COVID-19. 156 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 1,900 cases, 1,855 to baseline health and 45 deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, February 1 there were 761,302 total cases of COVID-19, with 9,342 deaths, 8,908,258 completed tests and 2,781 hospitalized. Statewide, as of Monday, January 25 there were 723,445 total cases of COVID-19, with 8,720 deaths, 8,500,479 completed tests and 3,287 hospitalized. As of Monday, January 4 there were 570,111 total cases of COVID-19, with 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 completed tests and 3,192 hospitalized. On Monday, December 7 there were 404,032 total cases of COVID-19, with 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 completed tests and 2,373 hospitalized. On 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 October 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 (no deaths); May 26 - 62 cases (1 death); June 22 - 107 cases (2 deaths); July 27 - 285 cases (2 deaths); August 3 - 306 cases (2 deaths); August 31 - 440 cases (4 deaths); September 4 - 461 cases (4 deaths); September 28 - 605 cases (4 deaths); October 5 - 649 cases (6 deaths); October 26 - 720 cases (9 deaths); November 2 - 738 cases (11 deaths); November 30 - 937 cases (14 deaths); December 7 - 1,029 cases (18 deaths); December 31 - 1,444 cases; (28 deaths) January 4 - 1,524 cases (28 deaths); January 25 - 1,957 cases (42 deaths).

## Due to Limited Supplies, Anson Health Department Temporarily Not Taking Appointments for Covid-19 Vaccine

*This is a release from Fred Thompson, PhD, Health Director at the Anson County Health Department:*

As you have no doubt heard on the news, supplies of the COVID vaccine in North Carolina are very limited.

Unfortunately, we were informed on January 27 that the Anson County Health Department will only be getting 100 first doses of the COVID vaccine per week for the next three weeks.

In light of the 1,200+ people we have registered and are waiting to get the vaccine, we are stopping taking new appointments for the COVID vaccine effective immediately. We will resume taking appointments when/if we get more vaccine allocated to us. Several surrounding counties have had to do the same.

We will continue to vaccinate our first doses until our existing supply of first dose vaccine runs out, probably around Thursday or Friday of this week. After that, we will be limited to vaccinating the 100 per week.

In addition, we will continue to give the second dose to people who have received their first dose. The state has said we will get vaccine for the second dose. But, with an allocation of only 100 first doses per week for the next three weeks, we need to pause taking new appointments and try to work through some of the backlog.

Just a reminder, it is critical that everyone continue to observe the three Ws until this pandemic is behind us – whether they have been vaccinated or not.

Thank you and as always feel free to reach out to me with your questions.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

**If you leave home, practice your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash**

- Wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.
- Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

These actions can protect our families and neighbors as the state works to ease restrictions while the virus is still circulating.

## NC Administers More Than 1 Million COVID-19 Vaccine Doses

North Carolina surpassed the 1 million mark of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered across the state last Friday. This milestone capped a week when the state's vaccine providers administered more than 99% of first doses.

Now the state's dashboard ([covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations)) will be updated every weekday so North Carolinians can track the state's administration of COVID-19 vaccines. The state's dashboard is the source for the most accurate and timely information for vaccine data for North Carolina.

"I am so grateful for our vaccine partners across the state who continue working in innovative ways to make sure North Carolinians have a spot to take their shot. It is incumbent on all of us to use the limited supply of vaccine we have as quickly and equitably as possible, finding new ways to meet people where they are," said NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

For the next three weeks, the state is guaranteeing baseline vaccine allocations to providers. In addition, it will set aside doses of the state's allocation to ensure equitable access to underserved and rural communities.

Vaccine supply continues to be very low. There may be wait times. North Carolinians can find out when they will be eligible to get their vaccine through the online tool, Find My Vaccine Group ([findmygroup.nc.gov](https://findmygroup.nc.gov)). The screener walks users through a series of questions to determine which vaccine group they are in. People can then sign up to be notified when their group can get vaccinated. North Carolina is currently vaccinating people in Groups 1 and 2, which include health care workers, long-term care staff and residents, and people 65 and older.

Until the country begins to get ahead of the pandemic, the CDC says everyone should keep wearing a mask, waiting at least six feet apart and washing hands often.

Providing 1 million doses was made possible through the hard work of North Carolina's vaccine providers and their partners, health departments throughout the state.



## BRLC and Friends Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*This is a release from Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center:* Allen Jackson with Anson County Parks & Recreation and the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center want to applaud the friends and families of Anson County who participated in the cemetery cleanup for their effort and all they do to help preserve and present our history to our younger and future generations. This community continues laboring for those who can no longer audibly speak.

On Monday, January 18 at 12:00 noon the weather was quite chilly and windy and the sun was shining bright. Community friends and Anson County adults and youth stood together listening and reflecting on the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The time of reflection was done through songs, speeches, prayers, bag lunches, personal reflections and, lastly, physical labor in cleaning the Poplar Springs Original Cemetery which dates back to the 1800s.

Miss. Jazlyn Brewer, an eleventh grader at Anson High School, recited the great "I Have a Dream" of Dr. King. Jazlyn continues to serve whenever possible at BRLC.

Allen Jackson presided as emcee for this event and as this cemetery cleanup coordinator. David Perry of the Poplar Spring Baptist Church also assisted him with the opening prayer. Mr. and Mrs. Perry lined the front of the cemetery entrance with small miniature flags of the United States of America, donated by BRLC.

The Original Cemetery's property owners, slaves and free African Americans buried in this sacred place should never be forgotten. Dr. King and the civil rights movers and shakers continue to speak louder and louder, "All men are created equal."

The Spiritual Outfitters Vanessa Kline, Hope Pregnancy Resources Center Director Rebecca & children, Elizabeth Randle, Deloris Hammond and grandchildren, Mitchell Kiser and yours truly. We thank each one who participated in the event.

## Special Open Enrollment Period for Health Insurance Starts Soon on HealthCare.gov...Only for a Limited Time

**NC Navigators are here to help! North Carolinians can call 1-855-733-3711 (toll free) or visit [ncnavigator.net](https://ncnavigator.net) to schedule a free virtual appointment**

North Carolinians have a new opportunity to enroll in health insurance for 2021 on [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov), but only for a limited time. This new special open enrollment period starts February 15, 2021, and ends May 15, 2021.

With job losses continuing to mount amid the COVID-19 resurgence, and millions of people having lost their job-based health insurance since the start of this public health and economic crisis, the White House has opened up [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov) to give people who need health insurance a new opportunity to get covered, but they must act quickly.

Health insurance is more affordable than many people think. In North Carolina, nine out of ten marketplace enrollees received financial help that lowered their monthly health insurance premiums in 2020. More than 536,000 North Carolinians enrolled in a health insurance plan for 2021 on [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov).

Consumers enrolling in a plan on [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov) are guaranteed to receive comprehensive coverage, with no pre-existing condition exclusions or markups. All plans cover essential benefits, including doctor and hospital visits, prescription drugs, mental health treatment, and maternity care. In addition, consumers receive free preventive care services, such as immunizations and health screenings. Testing and treatment of COVID-19 are considered essential health benefits and are covered by all [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov) plans.

Consumers should avoid insurance plans offered outside of [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov) that seem too good to be true. "Junk insurance" products pose huge financial risks to consumers. These products can refuse to pay for care for pre-existing conditions, charge consumers more based on their gender, and impose annual coverage limits.

"NC Navigators stand ready to assist consumers across the state during this special open enrollment period," said Mark Van Arnam, director of the NC Navigator Consortium.

"However, appointments go quickly, so I encourage everyone to act now and schedule a free appointment with one of our navigators," Van Arnam said.

The health insurance landscape can be confusing, but free, local help is available. You can find someone to help you navigate the enrollment process by visiting the NC Navigator Consortium's website at [ncnavigator.net](https://ncnavigator.net) or by calling the Consortium's toll-free helpline at 1-855-733-3711.

**The NC Navigator Consortium** is a group of six health care, social service and legal aid organizations that helps North Carolina consumers enroll in affordable, comprehensive health insurance plans on [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov), the Health Insurance Marketplace established by the Affordable Care Act. Members of the consortium are Access East, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Cumberland HealthNet, HealthNet Gaston and Legal Aid of North Carolina, which leads the consortium. The consortium is funded in part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and Cone Health Foundation. Learn more at [ncnavigator.net](https://ncnavigator.net) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Legal Aid of North Carolina** is a statewide nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal help to low-income and vulnerable North Carolinians. Learn more at [legallaidnc.org](https://legallaidnc.org) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

## ACTS Transportation Services is for the Citizens of Anson County

The employees at the Anson County Transportation System (ACTS) are proud of the service offered to the community of Anson County. Their fleet of vehicles regularly transport individuals to the following places:

- Doctor's appointments • Employment • Nutrition sites • Post secondary school
- Recreational functions • Shopping facilities

**Different Types of Transportation** ACTS offers two types of transportation, regularly scheduled routes and on-demand response.

• **Regular Scheduled Routes** - Regularly scheduled routes transport individuals to the same destination on a consistent basis. Regularly scheduled routes consist of the following: Dialysis treatment; Employment routes throughout Anson County; and Nutritional routes for the elderly to the Peachland, Wadesboro and Morven meal sites.

• **Demand Response Transportation** - Demand response transportation is very flexible and is accessible by dialing at least 24 hours in advance to schedule appointments. (To ensure availability of vehicle, one might need to call earlier than 24 hours.)

**Funding** The transportation system accepts the following funding sources: Cash; Elderly and Disabled Transportation Grant (These funds are handled by the transportation department and can be accessed by calling the transportation office at 704-694-2596); Medicaid; Monthly payments by established agencies and businesses.

More information is available by calling ACTS at 704-694-2596 or visiting the website [www.co.anson.nc.us/199/Transportation](https://www.co.anson.nc.us/199/Transportation).

## Community Outreach Offers Household Items on February 27

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Community Outreach Event on Saturday, February 27 at 10 a.m. They will be giving out free 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](https://www.logomchurch.com).

## Parent/Teacher Conference Schedule for Anson County Schools

**Elementary School Conferences:**

- Thursday, February 4, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 8, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 9, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Middle & High School Conferences:**

- Thursday, March 11, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 15, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 16, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Conferences will be held remotely over a 3-day period. Your child's teacher will be reaching out to schedule a parent/teacher conference during the time periods listed above.

## Labor Department Adopts Parental Leave Policy

The N.C. Department of Labor will implement Executive Order No. 95, Providing Paid Leave to Eligible State Employees, effective Feb. 1, 2021. The executive order is applicable to state employees that qualify for paid parental leave based on the need to care for and bond with a newborn, newly adopted, foster or otherwise legally placed child.

The order grants an employee who gives birth four consecutive weeks for recuperation and recovery and an additional four weeks of intermittent leave for parental bonding. In addition, NCDOL will also offer eligible employees who are non-birth parents four weeks of intermittent paid parental leave for bonding. Qualifying employees will receive 100% of their regular pay while on leave.

"I'm excited to offer this much needed benefit to Department of Labor employees," said Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson. "This will also help the agency with recruitment and retention of qualified employees and will make these positions more marketable to potential applicants."