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

## 2,157 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, February 8 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,157 reported cases of COVID-19. 85 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 2,072 cases, 2,025 to baseline health and 47 deaths.

In a release the Health Department stated, "We are currently vaccinating Phase 1 (Frontline Healthcare Workers) and Phase 2 (Those 65 & Older). If you are interested in a vaccine, please call us at 704-694-5188 and press 1. Please note our call volume is very high, so if you do not reach a person, leave a voicemail and we will call you back. If you have already called or filled out a registration form and given your specific information to someone and currently fall within Phase 1 and 2, please know we will call you back and have your appointment scheduled within 1-2 weeks. We appreciate your patience with us!"

Please note that for more specific information regarding county/state statistics, refer to [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov).

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, February 8 there were 799,279 total cases of COVID-19, with 9,991 deaths, 9,311,180 completed tests and 2,339 hospitalized.

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. January 25 - 723,445 cases of COVID-19, 8,720 deaths, 8,500,479 completed tests and 3,287 hospitalized. January 4 - 570,111 cases of COVID-19, 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 completed tests and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7 - 404,032 cases of COVID-19, 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 completed tests and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2 - 278,028 cases of COVID-19, 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 completed tests and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5 - 219,754 cases of COVID-19, 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); February 1 - 2,056 cases (45 deaths).



## Barn Blast: Sponsorships Still Needed!

The Anson County Partnership for Children was overwhelmed by the response to the Barn Blast celebration, hosted January 28. Due to the reaction, the sponsorship deadline has been extended to February 15. The fundraising goal was \$35,000 and the Partnership is less than \$1,000 from meeting the goal.

The Partnership has been a staple in the community, "helping make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child" for 25 years. As the needs of the community change, the Partnership's programs adapt to include literacy, family support, and early childhood programs to help young children grow and develop.

During the pandemic, the Partnership made more adjustments and accepted new responsibilities in efforts to continue serving the children and families in Anson County. The loss of resources and services during the pandemic will have a lasting impact on children.

It is because of the amazing sponsors and community members that we were able to distribute more than 400 Raising A Reader learn-at-home bags and deliver 20,000 food and basic need packages during the pandemic.

"To those who have already donated, we thank you! Your sponsorship will go to serve the community. For those wanting to cultivate the young minds in Anson County, there's still time to invest," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director.

For more information on being about being a sponsor, call 704 694-4036 or visit the Partnership's website at [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org). Checks can be mailed to 117 South Greene Street Wadesboro, NC 28170

Check out the Partnership's Facebook page for updates throughout the year about the Partnership for Children's 25th anniversary celebrations.

## Anson County's December Unemployment Rate at 7.1% Holds Steady from November's 7.2% Rate

Anson County's unemployment rate for December was 7.1%. In November the rate was 7.2%. The October rate was 7.2%, the September rate was 8.5%, the August rate was 8%, the July rate was 10%, the June rate was 7.9%, May's rate was 10.1% and April's rate was 8.2%. In March the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%.

Statewide the December unemployment rate was 6%. In November and October the rate was 6.1%. In September the rate was 7%. In August the rate was 6.8%. In July the unemployment rate was 8.9%.

In December 2019 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4%, and statewide the rate was 3.3%.

Anson's total labor force in December was 10,718. Of that number 9,956 were employed and 762 were unemployed. In November the total labor force was 10,8774, with 10,003 employed and 771 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 55 of North Carolina's counties in December, decreased in 28, and remained unchanged in 17. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.2 percent while Watauga County had the lowest at 4.3 percent.

Four of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases, seven decreased, and four remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville had the highest rate at 8.2 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill and Raleigh each had the lowest at 5.2 percent. The December not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 6.0 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 99 counties and decreased in one. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in December by 3,616 to 4,681,331, while those unemployed decreased by 3,503 to 297,387. Since December 2019, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 221,241, while those unemployed increased 129,132.

## Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, August 29, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens and those living near the Union and Stanly County lines.

All Ansonians will need to apply if you have not used the BRLC Emergency Pantry recently. Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify.

The serving process is drive-thru only. All neighbors are ask to wear your masks. Please do not arrive before 11 a.m. on Saturday morning.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provides these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte and Feeding America.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check [www.burnsvillele.org](http://www.burnsvillele.org).

## Nominations Sought for Business Scholarship

Nominations are being sought for a \$750 scholarship offered by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Administrative Professionals Association (NCEAPA) through March 12, 2021. The scholarship is available to North Carolina residents pursuing a college degree (Associates and/or Bachelors) in business or a business-related field of study. Applicants must be enrolled to attend classes at a college during the 2021-2022 school year.

The scholarship is awarded annually to honor the work and dedication of Edith Herter and Frances O'Neal, co-leaders in forming the NCEAPA in 1973.

Qualified applicants interested in applying for this scholarship can obtain an application packet from the financial aid office at their local community college or high school counselors office. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Anson County Center, at 704-294-2915.

## Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education Offers Online and In-Person Learning

The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, is offering virtual and in-person educational programs on an array of outdoor recreation topics this month. The Center's COVID-19 policies are stated on their website ([ncwildlife.org/learning/education-centers/pisgah](http://ncwildlife.org/learning/education-centers/pisgah)) and must be followed during in-person visits.

### In-person classes (Pisgah Forest):

- Casting for Beginners, Thursday, Feb. 4 and 18, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Ages 12 and older.
- Intro to Fly-Fishing, Saturday, Feb. 13 and 27, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Ages 12 and older.

### Virtual classes (statewide access & beyond):

- Wild Woodlands, Tuesday, Feb. 9 and 23, 10 - 11 a.m. Ages 5 and up.
- Raising Trout, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 10 - 11 a.m. Ages 5 and up.
- Endangered Species, Thursday, Feb. 25, 10-11 a.m. Ages 5 and up.

Pre-Registration is required for all classes and is available on the Center's program calendar or by calling 828-877-4423.

## Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program throughout the year, even during the pandemic. Normally they distribute coats and blankets to several of the churches and schools in Anson County as well as directly to those people in need. For now, if you or someone in your household needs a coat, children and adults, call Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 or 704-294-0480 and tell her what you need. She will deliver the coat to you.

## Health Department is Now Taking Appointments for Groups 1 and 2

### Group 1 (Health Care Workers) and Group 2 (65 & Over) urged to make appointments

This is a release from Fred Thompson, PhD, Health Director at the Anson County Health Department: Good morning everyone. The Health Department has been able to work through our backlog of people 65 and over waiting to get the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine. We are pleased to begin accepting appointments again for the vaccine for Group 1, health care workers, and Group 2, the 65 and over, effective immediately.

To speed up the registration process, for both the Health Department and the vaccine recipient, we are asking people to fill a registration/health questionnaire and return the form to us. You can request the form via email at [covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us) or by calling the Health Department at 704-694-5188. Once completed, the form can be emailed to the same address: [covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us) or placed in the drop box located at the front entrance of the Anson Health Department, located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

Once we receive the registration form, we will call the individual and schedule their appointment to get the vaccine. For the elderly and others who do not have the capability to fill out the form, they can simply call us at (704) 694-5188 and press 1 and we will take the information manually over the phone as we have been doing.

At this point, we have vaccinated 1,966 people. Our best guess is that we have about 2,000 Ansonians left in Group 2, the 65 and over, to vaccinate. It will take us several weeks to get all of the 65 and over who want the vaccine vaccinated.

I am asked daily, "When will you be able to start vaccinating Group 3, the Frontline Essential Workers?" The only honest answer is that I don't know when the state will move to Group 3. My best guess, and it is just a guess, is sometime in March. We hope that in the coming months vaccine supplies will increase and/or additional vaccinators will come online in Anson County.

As a reminder, we are vaccinating at the Emergency Services Center, located at 2230 Country Club Road in Wadesboro. (Across from Twin Valley golf course.) When people get their first shot, we will schedule them for their second shot before they leave. We now have two drive-thru lanes set up. One is for people getting their first dose and the other is for those getting their second dose.

Finally, it is critical that everyone continue to follow the 3 Ws after they have been vaccinated. At this point, we simply do not know if people can continue to spread the virus even after they have been vaccinated.

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

As always, call us with your questions, and please encourage everyone 65 and over to get their shot. The Moderna vaccine is safe and effective. To date we have had 2,157 Covid cases and 47 deaths in the county. It is not an overstatement to say that the vaccine can be lifesaving, especially for those 65 and over.

## Wadesboro Council Meeting Rescheduled

The Wadesboro Town Council's regular monthly meeting was rescheduled from the original date of February 1 to Thursday, February 11 at 5 p.m.

A link for viewing the meeting online will be available on the town's Facebook page prior to the meeting.