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

Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Tuesday, March 22, there were 6,558 total Covid-19 cases, with 44 active and 99 deaths. On March 15 there were 66 active cases.

Covid Vaccines are available for everyone 5 years old and older, including walk-in clinics. (Children 5-11 by appointment only.) Vaccine boosters are available. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information. Walk-in clinics are held on Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

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

Covid Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. without an appointment. They are closed for lunch 12 noon to 1 p.m. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot at 500 Morven Road in Wadesboro. No appointment is needed and there is no charge for the Covid test. Results will be called or emailed directly to the person tested or, in the case of children, to their parent or adult caregiver, in 2-3 days. They will test anyone over the age of 1.

Free home Covid tests are available by mail. The government has set up a website (www.covidtests.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Tuesday, March 22 there were 819 new cases of Covid, with 23,091 deaths and 616 hospitalized. 76% of NC adults had at least one dose of vaccine, 72% were fully vaccinated. On March 15 there were 649 new cases, with 22,966 deaths and 832 hospitalized.

COVID-19 history statewide: March 8 894 new cases; February 22 1,716 new cases, with 22,296 deaths and 2,215 hospitalized; January 25 13,017 new cases, 20,335 deaths, 5,055 hospitalized; January 18, 2022 31,902 new cases, 20,000 deaths, 4,630 hospitalized; December 27, 2021 4,889 new cases, 19,233 deaths, 1,680 hospitalized; November 21 2,401 new cases, 18,597 deaths, 1,052 hospitalized. 72% of NC adults had at least one dose of vaccine, 68% were fully vaccinated. On October 25 1,183 new cases, 17,867 deaths, 1,527 hospitalized; September 27 2,665 new cases, 16,235 deaths, 3,012 hospitalized. 69% of NC adults had at least one dose of vaccine, 64% were fully vaccinated; August 30 4,569 new cases, 14,412 deaths, 3,509 hospitalized; August 2 2,190 new cases, 13,670 deaths, 1,359 hospitalized; July 12 562 new cases, 13,499 deaths, 448 hospitalized; June 7 359 new cases, 13,199 deaths, 546 hospitalized; May 3 1,126 new cases, 12,691 deaths, 1,007 hospitalized; April 5 1,054 new cases, 12,173 deaths, 907 hospitalized; March 1 862,170 total cases, 11,254 deaths, 1,219 hospitalized; February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths and 2,781 hospitalized. January 4, 2021: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7 2020: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths and 971 hospitalized.

COVID-19 history in Anson County: March 31, 2020: 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 31: 440 cases (4 deaths); September 28: 605 cases (4 deaths); October 26: 720 cases (9 deaths); November 30: 937 cases (14 deaths); December 31, 2020: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25, 2021: 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 22: 2,258 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2,414 cases (56 deaths); April 30: 2,527 cases (56 deaths); May 28: 2,604 cases (56 deaths); June 30: 2,639 cases (57 deaths); July 26: 2,719 cases (58 deaths); August 31: 3,085 cases (63 deaths); September 30: 3,666 cases (76 deaths); October 25: 3,845 cases (81 deaths); November 24: 4,038 cases (85 deaths); December 30, 2021: 4,291 cases, 179 active (88 deaths); January 18, 2022: 5,362 cases, 668 active (88 deaths); January 30: 6,143 cases, 503 active (90 deaths).

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.

School Board Meeting is March 28

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, March 28. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Masks will be required for visitors.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

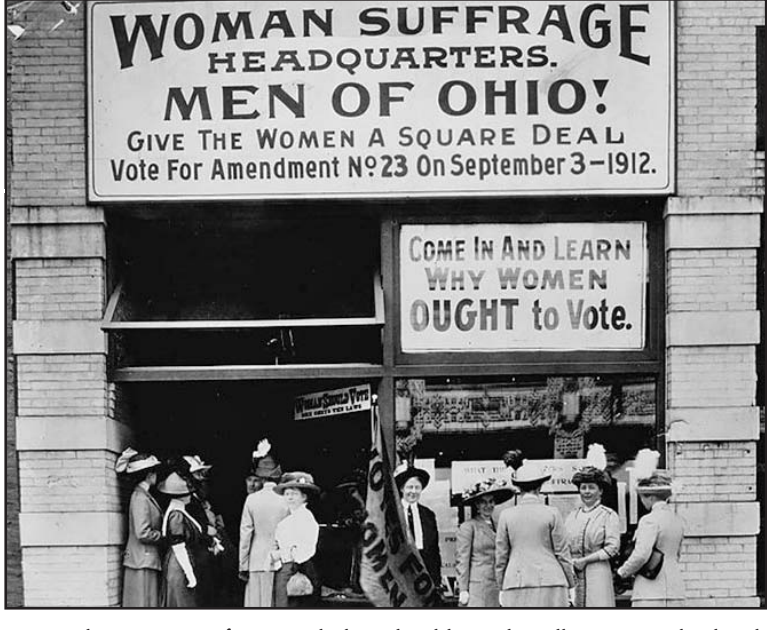
New Special Enrollment Period for Fed Health Insurance Marketplace

A new Special Enrollment Period (SEP) on the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace has opened for consumers who have projected income of at least 100% of the federal poverty level but are at or below the 150% of the federal poverty level. This SEP allows qualifying people to enroll in plans in any month during the year without having to experience a "qualifying life event" like other SEPs. Enrollment and coverage should start April 1st.

100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is \$12,880 for a household of one and \$26,500 for a household of four. The 150% Poverty Level is \$19,320 for a household of one and \$39,750 for a household of four. Because this is North Carolina, which has not expanded Medicaid, people who are in the "Medicaid Gap" cannot qualify for this new SEP because their income is below 100% of FPL.

This SEP is available right now through the marketplace call center. By the end of March this SEP should be available automatically when you do your application online through the Healthcare.gov website.

If you have questions, need more information or want help with enrollment, GetCoveredWNC, a service of Mountain Projects, offers local, free unbiased help. They can also help if you need a 1095-A form for your taxes. Call 828-452-1447 and ask to speak to a Certified Application Counselor.



Governor Cooper Proclaims March as Women's History Month

Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed March as Women's History Month to honor the women who have shaped North Carolina's history.

"This month, we celebrate the achievements of North Carolina women who have worked to strengthen our state," said Governor Cooper. "Gender disparities still exist in too many spaces, and we must ensure that women have access to equal opportunities, pay and respect for their contributions."

This year marks the 59th anniversary of the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement, an initiative focused on advancing and protecting the rights of women. The Council provides guidance on a variety of

issues that women face, including health and wellness, youth development and education and employment, as well as funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

The Governor and his administration are working to advance gender equality in North Carolina. In May 2019, the Governor signed Executive Order No. 95. The Order provides state employees with eight weeks of paid parental leave after giving birth or four weeks of paid parental leave after a partner gives birth or to bond with and care for a child in the event of adoption, foster care or other legal placement. More than 56,000 state employees are eligible to receive paid parental leave under the Order. As of August 2021, more than 3,600 state employees have used the paid parental leave policy.

In December 2018, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order No. 82 which extends workplace protections and modifications to pregnant employees. In April 2019, the Governor signed Executive Order No. 93 directing state government agencies to ban the use of salary history in the hiring process, as reliance on salary history can perpetuate gender pay inequities.

In September 2021, the Governor signed House Bill 608: Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act into law. The legislation protects women who are incarcerated during and after pregnancy and labor and helps women who are incarcerated bond with their children.

Domestic Violence Coalition BBQ Fundraiser is Friday

Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition will hold its annual BBQ Fundraiser this Friday, March 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This year the event will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 304 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. Take-out and delivery are available. Dine-in is not available this year due to Covid. Deliveries to local businesses and organizations are courtesy of Anson County Sheriff's Office and volunteers.

The cost is as follows: Sandwiches \$5, Pints \$12 and Quarts \$22. Plates are \$10 and include chopped BBQ, slaw, baked beans, roll and dessert.

Call in and fax orders are welcome. The fax number is 704-694-4515 and the office number is 704-694-4499. ACDVC staff will be out in the community over the next few weeks giving out flyers and order sheets.

The Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center is a nonprofit organization funded solely by grants and fundraisers. They encourage you to come join them for some delicious BBQ and help promote awareness against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Thank you for your continued support!

Anson Middle School PTO Bearcat Pride 5K

Where: Uptown Wadesboro **When:** Saturday, April 30 at 9:00 a.m.
Course Information: The 5k Run/Walk will begin and end in front of Wadesboro Police Department, located on South Rutherford Street.

The Bearcat Pride 5k run/walk will help support the AMS PTO by raising funds to support students and staff. The AMS PTO gives parents and teachers the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the educational experience. The PTO builds an effective partnership of home and school. It provides financial assistance where needs are identified within the school, it fosters a community atmosphere, and supports the mission and vision of the school and school district.

- There's a special registration price of \$10 for students ages 5-18. (Special pricing will show once you check out.)
- Register by April 15 and you will receive a free t-shirt.
- Online Registration Deadline ends Tuesday, April 26, at 11:59 p.m. Race Day Registration will be \$25.

Register online at runsignup.com/Race/NC/Wadesboro/BearcatPride5kRunWalk. The course map can be found at mapmyrun.com/routes/view/4905431194.

Safe Kids Anson Hosting Operation Medicine Drop this Saturday

Safe Kids Anson will host Operation Medicine Drop this Saturday, March 26, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the Food Lion parking lot in Wadesboro. Bring your unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines to Food Lion for safe disposal. Syringes and needles will not be accepted for collection.

The average North Carolinian fills 17 prescriptions annually and studies show that as much as 40% of the drugs dispensed are never used. Abuses of unused and/or expired prescription medications is a public health issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose and abuse, as well as contaminating our water system. Poisoning is the number one cause of injury-related deaths in the United States. The latest statistics show that the rate of unintentional poisoning deaths in children ages 0-14 in North Carolina decreased by 28% from 2004-2018. However, children ages 0-4 are still at a greater risk of poisoning death.

In the last several years, 6 in 10 poisoning deaths were caused by prescription, over-the-counter medication, or illicit drugs according to data collected from the Centers for Disease Control.

Operation Medicine Drop encourages the public to safely dispose of unused, unwanted, and expired medication.

For additional information please contact LeAnn Melton at (704) 694-4036.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard March 18, 2022

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	0	0	0	0
Anson High School	0	0	0	0
Anson Middle School	0	0	0	0
Ansonville Elementary	2	1	2	1
Lilesville Elementary	0	1	0	1
Morven Elementary	0	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	0	0	0	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	1	N/A	1
Total	2	3	2	3
Total Students + Employees	5		5	

*Student Enrollment as of 03/18/22: 2,956
*Enrollment changes daily
% of Students Positive: 0.07%

of Employees: 513
% of Employees Positive: 0.58%

A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.

Unemployment Rate 5.1% in Jan.

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for January was 5.1%, up from December's 4.4% rate. Here are other 2021 rates: November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 5.9%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The 2020 rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the unemployment rate for January was 3.8%, up slightly from December's 3.2% rate. Here are other statewide 2021 rates: November 3.4%; October 3.6%; September 3.8%; August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January and December 2020 6%. Other 2020 rates: November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in January was 10,135. Of that number 9,615 were employed and 520 were unemployed. In December the total labor force was 10,438, with 9,981 employed and 457 unemployed. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in all 100 of North Carolina's counties in January. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.1% while Orange County had the lowest at 2.6%.

All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.0 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 3.0 percent. The January not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.8%.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in January by 17,221 to 4,815,473, while those unemployed increased by 28,831 to 189,501. Since January 2021, the number of workers employed statewide increased 251,045, while those unemployed decreased 96,959.