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

## Anson County Has 30 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday, May 5

### Health Department releases COVID-19 infection information by zip code

On Tuesday, May 5 the Anson County Health Department reported that Anson County had 30 reported cases of COVID-19, with 10 of those cases active.

**In a release from the Health Department on Tuesday** We are now up to 30 total cases, with 10 of those cases being active. We have discharged 20 cases so far.

As you are aware, Governor Cooper has extended the Stay At Home Order until May 8, 2020. Please follow this order in order to keep you and your families protected.

Most of the recent cases have been determined to be community spread. Please do not gain a false sense of security at this time. Remember, "Community Spread" means that the patient DOES NOT KNOW where they came in contact with the virus.

**On April 21 the Health Department released zip code information.** COVID-19 infection rates in Anson County by zip code as of April 21 showed cases of the virus in every zip code except for Ansonville.

28170- sixteen cases

28119- six cases

28133- two cases

28135- four cases

28091- one case

28102- one case

In releasing the zip codes, the Health Department wants readers to please keep the following in mind:

- Please keep in mind when looking at the zip codes that when you live outside of the city limits, you may be closer to a particular town but have a different zip code, do not gain a sense of false security.

- Also, the Health Department will update this as they are able. They cannot promise that this will be done every day, as their staff is small and busy working to protect the citizens of our beautiful county.

**The Health Department advises everyone to please continue to observe the following:**

1- You should assume EVERY person you come in contact with is potentially infected. Regardless of where you go (down the street or to another zip code, grocery store or fast food).

2- You should assume EVERY surface is potentially contaminated.

3- You should cough into your elbow or your sleeve, NOT your hand (see reason #2).

4- You should be following the governor's stay at home order.

5- You should be following proper hand hygiene.

6- Practice social distancing (6 feet)

7- If you exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, body aches, WITHOUT shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or chest discomfort- you are asked to stay home and recover, you do NOT need to be tested, you can self isolate at home, which reduces exposure to others.

8- If you have been around a positive case and have no or even mild symptoms, you do NOT need a test. A positive test result is going to do NOTHING for you. You will only be exposing more persons by seeking this test.

9- Consider Atrium Health's online virtual assessment for COVID-19 and the FREE virtual visit. If a doctor's note is what you need to stay home from work, they can provide you with one, pending that a note is necessary and you are symptomatic.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like Anson County Public Health, CDC, and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). For more information, please visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and NCDHHS website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus), which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

**The Health Department also stated these 4 items:**

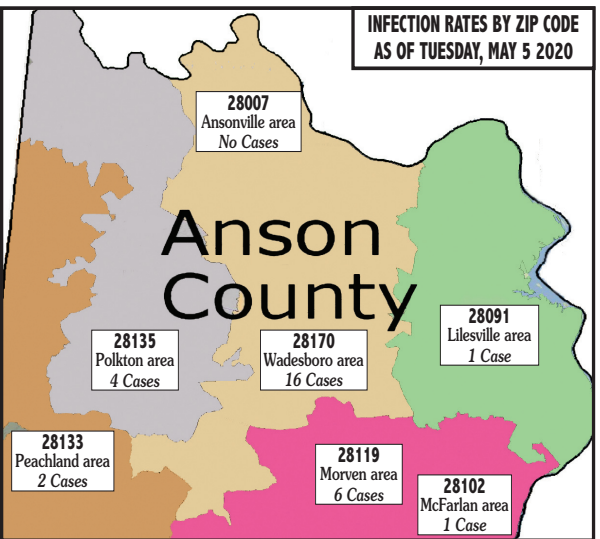
1- We would like to remind you that we are unable to respond to comments on our Facebook posts.

2- We do not have any way, at this time, of knowing how many Anson County citizens have been tested. Providers are no longer mandated to report pending tests to the health department and many persons are being tested out of county either at their primary care offices, testing centers or urgent cares.

3- We do have providers in the county that are testing.

4- Regardless of where a person is tested, their positive result is sent to the county of their residence.

We are thankful and happy to be able to continue to serve our community. Stay well!



## North Carolina COVID-19 Information

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit [ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus) or text COVIDNC to 898211.

Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization website at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

## Should NC be Concerned About Asian Giant Hornets?

Asian giant hornets (*Vespa mandarinia*) have been present in Washington State since December 2019. They likely arrived in the Pacific Northwest and southwestern Canada as accidental stow-aways in international cargo. There is an ongoing effort to prevent their current establishment and spread, and there is no threat of them reaching NC in the near future.

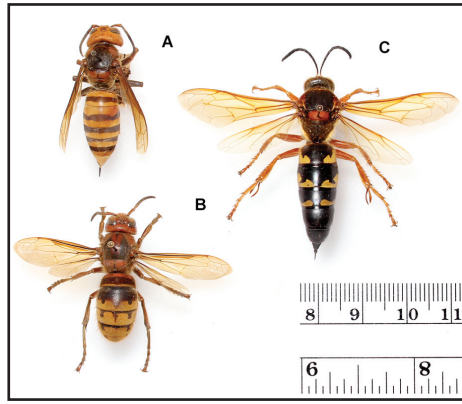
Like many other wasps, Asian giant hornets are predatory, hunting and dismembering prey to feed their young. The workers grow to 1.5 inches long, while the queen make be more than 2 inches. The economic threat, and nickname "murder hornet" comes from their ability to stage group attacks to completely destroy a European honey bee colony, killing honey bee adults, while devouring their larvae and pupae. This is why their presence is relevant. Honey bees are the most important insect pollinator for agricultural crops. Establishment of this pest would be yet another blow to managed honey bee colonies already struggling to overcome exotic pests like the varroa mite and tracheal mite.

It is important to know that NC already has 2 equally large wasps among us, which are of little concern. First the European hornet. They are presently building nests in hollow tree trunks, under decks, or in attics. They generally pose little threat to honey bees or humans, unless directly threatened.

Cicada killers are solitary wasps that emerge from the ground late summer. This species is even more imposing than the Asian giant hornet or European hornets with its bold black stripes and sheer size. But again cicada killers are more interested in stinging their preferred prey, and are not aggressive toward people. Stings are usually the result of accidental encounters. Cicada killers are considered beneficial for preying on cicadas which damage young trees.

If you have questions about these or our other resident insects, please contact the Anson Horticulture Agent at [aimee\\_colf@ncsu.edu](mailto:aimee_colf@ncsu.edu) or 704-694-2415.

In the photo, the Asian Giant Hornet (Murder Hornet) is A. Both the European Hornet (B) & Cicada Killer (C) are found in North Carolina. *Article courtesy of Aimee Colf*



## This is Teacher Appreciation Week

Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed May 4 - May 8 Teacher Appreciation Week in North Carolina to recognize the significant impact teachers make on our children and our state's future.

"Teachers have always been my heroes, and it's important to pause to recognize our educators for everything they do," Gov. Cooper said.

"Teachers go the extra mile for their students under normal circumstances, and now during this pandemic they are running a marathon to educate and support their students in these unprecedented times."

The Governor also released a video thanking teachers for their work this school year, particularly in how they've adapted to remote learning during COVID-19. [governor.nc.gov](http://governor.nc.gov)

Gov. Cooper is working with education leaders and public health officials to develop safety guidelines for schools to follow when classes are able to convene in person. These guidelines will be designed to protect everyone in the school community, especially at-risk teachers and students.

Education has been a top priority for Gov. Cooper's administration, and the Governor joined other state leaders in setting a goal to have two million North Carolinians earn a post-secondary degree or credentials by 2030. A key aspect of achieving this goal is making sure teachers are supported, and Gov. Cooper has repeatedly advocated for significant teacher pay increases.

## Your Story is North Carolina's Story

The coronavirus outbreak has meant significant changes to the lives of all North Carolinians. While there is still a long way to go in terms of dealing with this worldwide crisis, the world like to hear from you now as we experience and navigate this time together. The State Archives of North Carolina ([archives.ncdcr.gov](http://archives.ncdcr.gov)) and the NC Museum of History ([ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org)) are partnering on a project to collect original, first-person personal accounts that document this pandemic because Your Story is North Carolina's Story.

Here are examples of what they are collecting: Personal Accounts; Photographs; Recordings; Oral Histories; and Journals and Diaries.

We are all affected by this crisis in varying degrees, and diaries, journals, oral histories, images, recordings, and similar materials will help us tell stories of this unprecedented time in history. Personal accounts provide depth and context for what an event or era was like for the people experiencing it. The hope is that the records we preserve in 2020 will help future generations understand what it felt like to live through this time. The goal is to collect the stories of diverse North Carolinians from across the state, and they need your help.

Physical objects cannot be collected while facilities are closed, and they do not want to take items that are still in use, so people are asked to save items for future collection, but record and submit information about them now.

Visit the website: [ncdcr.gov/about/special-programs/your-story-north-carolina-story](http://ncdcr.gov/about/special-programs/your-story-north-carolina-story) for more details...and tell your story.

## Governor Cooper Signs COVID-19 Relief Bills Into Law

On Monday, May 4 Governor Roy Cooper signed the following COVID-19 relief bills into law: Senate Bill 704 & House Bill 1043.

"I am signing into law two critical relief bills that will provide assistance to families, schools, hospitals and small businesses as our state battles COVID-19," said Governor Cooper. "There is more work ahead of us, and I hope the spirit of consensus behind these bills will continue."

The Governor was joined by House Speaker Tim Moore, Democratic House Leader Darren Jackson, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger and Democratic Senate Leader Dan Blue.

"The General Assembly crafted a bipartisan COVID-19 relief package that puts North Carolina on the right path to recovery. Governor Cooper's signature on these bills sends a signal to our citizens that our state is moving past this crisis and that action is being taken to address their concerns," said Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger.

"I am proud of the work that we have done in the Senate to address the pressing needs in our state," said Senate Democratic Leader Dan Blue. "I look forward to working with Senator Berger on the next COVID-19 relief package so that we can build a stronger, more resilient for all North Carolinians."

"North Carolina is leading the nation's recovery through bipartisan consensus for swift action to assist every community in our state affected by this pandemic. I appreciate the successful collaboration among our legislative colleagues and the Governor to provide this powerful support for North Carolinians," said Speaker of the House Tim Moore.

"Citizens expect bipartisan progress and we are off to a good start. Now we need to do more for front-line workers, the unemployed, and people without health insurance," said House Democratic Leader Darren Jackson.

The relief package, which was passed unanimously, includes almost \$1.6 billion in relief measures for critical expenditures related to public health and safety, educational needs, small business assistance, and continuity of state government operations. Of this amount, \$1.4 billion has been appropriated and \$150 million is set aside in a reserve fund for future local government needs.

The package also contains key policy changes to support North Carolinians as the state battles COVID-19.

HB 1043, the spending package, allocates federal funding sent to the state from the CARES Act. It includes:

- \$50 million to provide personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies
  - \$25 million to support enhanced COVID-19 testing and tracing
  - \$125 million in small business loans administered through the Golden LEAF Foundation
  - \$50 million in health support for underserved communities including rural areas and minority communities
  - \$95 million to support North Carolina hospitals
  - \$20 million to support local health departments and the State Health Lab
  - \$75 million for school nutrition programs
  - \$70 million for summer learning programs
  - \$30 million for local schools to purchase computers and other devices for students
  - \$6 million for food banks
  - \$9 million for rural broadband
  - \$85 million for vaccine development, antibody testing, community testing, and other COVID-19-related research at Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, East Carolina University, Campbell University, and Wake Forest University.
- Senate Bill 704 contained provisions to help North Carolinians. It includes:
- An extension of driver's license and registration expiration deadlines
  - Waived interest on tax payments normally due in April
  - Modifies end-of-grade testing requirements for public schools
  - Adjusts the 2020-21 K-12 public school calendar
  - Allows pharmacists to administer a COVID-19 vaccine once it is developed

## Anson County's Unemployment Rate was 4.9% in March

March rate determined by activity prior to March 15, does not reflect full COVID-19 impact

Anson County's unemployment rate for March was 4.9%. In February the unemployment rate was 4.5%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.2% in March, up slightly from February's 3.7% rate.

Anson's total labor force in March was 10,814. Of that number 10,281 were employed and 533 were unemployed. In February the total labor force was 11,098, with 10,603 employed and 495 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 97 of North Carolina's counties in March, decreased in two, and remained unchanged in one. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 13.1 percent, while Buncombe, Alexander, and Orange Counties each had the lowest at 3.4 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Fayetteville and Rocky Mount each had the highest rate at 5.5 percent and Asheville and Durham-Chapel Hill each had the lowest rate at 3.6 percent. The March not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.2 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 82 counties, decreased in eight, and remained unchanged in 10. Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases and two remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in March by 162,257 to 4,771,939, while those unemployed increased by 21,101 to 210,268. Since March 2019, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 96,845, while those unemployed increased 6,740.

The statistics reported in this article are based on activity prior to March 15, and thus do not reflect the full impact of recent COVID-19 related shutdowns in North Carolina.