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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, May 24 the total Covid-19 cases were 6,654, with 59 active and 99 deaths. On May 9 there were 5,586 cases, 18 active and 99 deaths. Moderna 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.

N-95 masks and Rapid COVID tests are offered at the Health Department. Stop in to pick one up. (Limited supply.) 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](http://www.covidtests.gov)) or call 1-800-232-0233.

## Wadesboro Police Seeking Information on Fatal Shooting

The Wadesboro Police Department is investigating a shooting incident that resulted in a fatality this past Saturday. Police responded at about 12:30 p.m. to the intersection of Barrington and Marshall Streets where they found the victim who died at the scene. The victim's identity has not been released. The State Bureau of Investigation is assisting in the investigation.

The Wadesboro Police Department is asking for anyone with information to please call 704-694-2167.

## Tighter Security for Graduation

While the usual pomp and circumstance of speeches, cheering and tassel-turning will look familiar, the Anson County School System is bringing in more security guards and other safety measures at their high school graduation ceremony to tighten up safety.

Around 178 students will graduate across two high schools next week. The commencement ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 31 at 8:00 p.m. at Anson High School Stadium.

Here's what to expect upon arrival to the ceremony:

- **STRONGER SECURITY:** There will be additional security personnel with a noticeable police presence on campus. The additional personnel will be provided in a collaborative effort between the Wadesboro Police Department and Anson County Sheriff's Office.

- **METAL DETECTORS:** Metal detectors will be used. Everyone at graduation, including students, parents, relatives, school personnel and guests, will be subject to metal detection screening.

- **WATCH WHAT YOU BRING:** All attendees are discouraged from bringing purses and handbags into graduation because such items must be screened, a process that slows down the entrance line. Small diaper bags and camera bags are allowed but will be searched. Prohibited items include bags, weapons of any kind and tobacco products, including vaping products.

- **ARRIVE EARLY:** Allow enough time for parking, and be prepared to stand in line, go through metal detectors and enter the ceremony, according to the school system.

- **SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING:** The school system encourages anyone who sees something suspicious to inform a school official or law enforcement immediately. Or you can use the See Something, Say Something App link located on our website at [www.ansonschools.org](http://www.ansonschools.org).

"We want our graduation ceremony to be safe and secure and that is why we are taking additional steps to work with law enforcement," said Superintendent of Schools Howard McLean. "Graduation is a special event for our community, and the focus for our students and families should be the celebration and the excitement of the day."

The graduating students will also be subjected to the same security procedures as guests.

Admission tickets are required for the ceremony.

School officials and law enforcement met to discuss implementing the additional security measures following recent community events. "We are doing everything we can to ensure safety at graduation," said McLean.

## Autism Seatbelt Identifiers Available

Safe Kids Anson is dedicated to serving our families, children, and community members through child passenger safety resources and information.

In the event of an emergency, it is imperative that first responders know of any special needs or medical conditions of any person in a vehicle. Through a generous donor, Safe Kids Anson has teamed up with Anson County Partnership for Children to offer seat belt identifiers for children with autism.

For questions please contact LeAnn Melton at [leann.melton@ansonchildren.org](mailto:leann.melton@ansonchildren.org) or call 704-694-4036.

In order to obtain a seatbelt identifier, the parent or caregiver must call the Partnership before arriving to ensure that they are still in stock. Although these are free to the public, please note that parents or caregivers must show proof of residency. This will be a first come, first serve basis as there is a limited supply. No more than two seatbelt identifiers will be distributed per family.

Caroline Goins, Executive Director of the Partnership for Children said, "We are so excited to share this with the public and to those who may be interested. You can call the Partnership beginning May 31 to schedule a pick-up."



## Anson High School Track Relay Team Wins State Championship

The Anson High School Women's 4x100 Relay Team won the 2A State Championship, making them regional and state champions.

Congratulations to team members Jemia Raley, Mya Covington, Janiyah Maxwell and Malaysia Gabriel.

## One Call Could Save Your Life Savings!

Is that individual offering you an investment opportunity licensed to sell securities in North Carolina? Is the investment opportunity itself registered?

Know before you sign!

While registration in and of itself is no guarantee against fraud, not being registered is a very big red warning flag.

The NC Secretary of State Securities Division urges you to take five minutes to call their NC Investor Hotline at 1-800-688-4507 to see if the person you have been dealing with – perhaps even for years – is properly registered and/or has a disciplinary history. You can also check to see if the actual investment itself is properly registered.

Pick up the phone and call them. You owe it to yourself and your family to check. And, please also consider sharing this information with your contacts or your social networks. Doing so will help keep your friends and loved ones safe, too.

More information can be found at [www.sosnc.gov/divisions/securities/for\\_investors](http://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/securities/for_investors).

## On the Road, On the Water. Don't Drink and Drive.

### State Law Enforcement Agencies and Mothers Against Drunk Driving Continue Sobriety Campaign

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. Highway Patrol and Mothers Against Drunk Driving will kick off the annual "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign with community events and safety check points throughout the state in advance of and on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30.

The multi-agency safety initiative works to reduce alcohol-related incidents on the state's roadways and waterways, both which see increased traffic during summer months. The Wildlife Commission reported that 16 boating incidents in 2021 were alcohol related, resulting in four fatalities.

"Fatalities that could be avoided with more responsible behavior is always difficult to process," said Lieutenant Forrest Orr of the Wildlife Commission. "It's imperative to designate a sober driver whether you're in a vehicle or on a boat. Undoubtedly a designated driver will prevent alcohol-related incidents on the road and in the water and make everyone's holiday weekend more enjoyable."

During the campaign, law enforcement officers will be conducting sobriety checkpoints and promoting public awareness to deter impaired operation of cars and boats on various bodies of water and highways. In North Carolina, a driver or vessel operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 or is substantially impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, is subject to arrest.

For more information on boating safety and regulations, visit [ncwildlife.org/boating](http://ncwildlife.org/boating) or call 919-707-0031.

## New Alert System in Anson County Called ACORNS to Keep Community Informed During Emergency Situations

### Public safety officials encourage residents to create and update their information in the New ACORNS platform

On Thursday, May 19 public safety officials in Anson County announced that ACORNS is now available to all residents, replacing the previous ACORN system. ACORNS is a free service that allows individuals to receive notifications sent from National Weather Service (NWS) and local authorities to stay informed on potentially hazardous situations involving weather, traffic and other emergencies, including the spread of the coronavirus.

The switch to ACORNS allows residents to receive alerts via phone, text and email, and answer poll questions that will give Anson County officials critical information during emergency situations. Individuals who are signed up for alerts will receive reliable information from county officials, including tailored updates based on their specific needs and geographic location.

Individuals who were previously signed up for ACORN will need to enroll in ACORNS, and to review and update their information in the new platform to ensure accuracy. Residents and travelers to Anson County who were not previously signed up for ACORN should sign up for free at [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us) to receive timely and actionable emergency alerts via email, text or voice message. They can also identify when and how they are alerted and communicated with before, during and after emergencies.

"ACORNS strengthens Anson County officials' ability to communicate with residents when it matters most," said R. Diggs, Chief, Anson County Emergency Services. "This service allows for critical communication with the public and provides individuals with the information needed to stay safe or take precautions during hazardous or emergency situations, especially during severe weather."

ACORNS is powered by Rave and is trusted by thousands of institutions including state and local authorities, business and educational institutions. Rave sends millions of messages daily and during critical situations such as severe weather.

Community members are encouraged to sign up for ACORNS and input or update their information and notification preferences today at: [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us).

## All Anson County Offices Closed Monday, May 30

Anson County offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day. Emergency services and law enforcement agencies will be in operation.

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	1	0	1	0
Ansonville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Lilesville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Morven Elementary	0	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	1	1	1	0
Wadesboro Elementary	1	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	0	N/A	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Students + Employees</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>2</b>	

  

*Student Enrollment as of 05/20/22	2,923	# of Employees	513
*Enrollment changes daily		% of Employees Positive	0.00%
% of Students Positive	0.07%	A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.	