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

New Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County Drop Dramatically

Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department showed 2,608 total reported cases of COVID-19, with only 12 active as of Thursday, June 3. This was an increase of only 9 cases since May 24. The total deaths are 56, with no change since mid-March.

If you need to call the Health Department, the temporary telephone number is 704-690-6757.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, June 7 there were 359 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,199 deaths and 546 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: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25: 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).

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

Free COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations this Week

The public is invited to attend either one of two free COVID-19 testing and vaccination events.

- Friday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. Sponsored by Ebenezer MBC in collaboration with Resourceful Clinical Laboratory. For information call Pastor Alban Burney at 704-999-7445.
- Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lemuel Center, located at 206 West Main Street in Morven. Sponsored by the Lemuel Center in collaboration with Resourceful Clinical Laboratory. For information call Sylvester Bennett at 704-294-9623 or Brenda Bennett at 704-465-0695.

Burn Ban Lifted in Anson County as Conditions Begin to Improve

Effective on June 2, the N.C. Forest Service has lifted a ban on all open burning for the following counties in North Carolina: Anson, Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Greene, Harnett, Hoke, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Pitt, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland and Wayne. The burn ban went into effect May 24 due to hazardous forest fire conditions in the area.

“Recent rainfall across central and eastern North Carolina has decreased fire danger,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “With more rain expected across the area through the weekend, we should see even more improvement. Still, residents should burn responsibly. Check for restrictions before burning, and make sure you have a valid permit. Check the weather, and never leave a debris fire unattended.”

Burn permits are available in all counties. You can obtain a burn permit from any open authorized permitting agent or online at www.ncforestservice.gov/burnpermit. All burn permits previously granted in the 26 counties affected by this burn ban were canceled when the ban became effective. A valid permit must be obtained.

Residents with questions regarding their specific county can contact their N.C. Forest Service county ranger or their county fire marshal’s office. To find contact information for your local NCFS county ranger, visit www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts.

Anson County’s Unemployment Rate Dropped to 5.4% in April

Anson County Anson County’s unemployment rate for April was 5.4%, down from 5.9% in March. In February the rate was 7.5%. The January rate was 7.7%, 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 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

Statewide Statewide the April unemployment rate was 4.4%. In March it was 4.6%. The February rate was 5.6%. In January and December 2020 the rates were 6%. Other 2020 rates: 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%.

Anson’s total labor force in April was 10,363. Of that number 9,806 were employed and 557 were unemployed. In March the total labor force was 10,457, with 9,839 employed and 618 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 of North Carolina’s counties in April, increased in seven, and remained unchanged in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.5 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 3.0 percent.

All fifteen of the state’s metro areas experienced rate decreases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 6.3 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 3.5 percent. The April not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.4 percent.

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 April by 4,935 to 4,757,583, while those unemployed decreased by 11,269 to 217,379. Since April 2020, the number of workers employed statewide increased 710,828, while those unemployed decreased 395,936.

Recommendations for Protecting Each Other From COVID-19

30% of Anson population is fully vaccinated. Only 70 new cases of COVID-19 in May.

Anson County Health Director Fred Thompson, PhD gave this update, “We have received several inquiries recently as to when people should or should not wear masks. The Health Department recommends that we follow the current CDC guidelines, and Governor Cooper’s Executive Order, as to when masks are or are not required, as outlined in the attached guidelines from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

In summary, if you are not vaccinated, you need to continue to wear a face covering and practice social distancing when you are in a public setting. If you are fully vaccinated, in most settings you do not need to wear a mask.

In some settings, such as on most forms of public transportation, regardless of vaccination status, you are still required to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Please see the additional information below regarding when a mask is or is not required.

The Health Department continues to offer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for free at our drive thru vaccination clinic on Tuesdays at the EMS base on Country Club Rd. Due to the recent cyber attack on the county, online registration for the vaccine is not currently available. Registration forms for the vaccine are available at the Health Department, or call us at (704) 690-6757, and we will be happy to schedule your vaccination.

We had fewer than 70 new cases of the coronavirus in May, a dramatic reduction of over 85% from the over 500 new cases we had in January. At this point, over 8,000 Ansonians have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 7,300 are fully vaccinated. Said another way, 33% of the county’s population is at least partially vaccinated and 30% are fully vaccinated.

Lets continue to pull together as a community, get vaccinated, and drive our coronavirus case count to zero.”

NCDHHS Recommendations for Protecting Each Other from COVID-19

Everyone is required to wear face coverings (regardless of vaccination status) in the following indoor settings:

- Health care settings including hospitals, nursing homes and other non-hospital health care settings as defined by Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation.
- Correctional facilities and homeless shelters.
- Settings that primarily serve children (i.e., child care, schools, camps).

Everyone should:

- Get a vaccine to protect against COVID-19 if eligible and encourage others to do the same. Visit MySpot.nc.gov to find a vaccine location near you.
- Wear a face covering and practice social distancing (even if fully vaccinated) in other high-density congregate living settings (e.g. migrant farm camps), in large crowded indoor venues (e.g. arenas, stadiums) and in indoor settings with a large number of children or child-focused activities (e.g. children’s museums).
- Get tested if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.

If you are fully vaccinated, you can:

- Gather with others who are vaccinated or unvaccinated.
- Be in most indoor and outdoor public spaces without wearing a face covering or staying 6 feet apart.
- Not get tested, and not quarantine, after being exposed to COVID-19 if you do not have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Travel in the United States without needing to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.

International travelers need to pay close attention to the situation at their international destinations before traveling due to the spread of new variants and because the burden of COVID-19 varies globally.

If you are not fully vaccinated, you should:

- Wear a face covering and maintain social distance in all indoor public settings and in outdoor public settings when it is difficult to maintain 6 feet of distance.
- Avoid indoor settings where people are not wearing face coverings.
- Participate in routine screening when offered.
- Limit gatherings with unvaccinated individuals you do not live with. If you do gather, do so while wearing face coverings and outside, if possible.
- Get tested and quarantine if you’ve been exposed to COVID-19, even if you don’t have symptoms.
- Delay travel until fully vaccinated. If you do travel, get tested 1-3 days before and 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.

Employers should:

- Have employees who are not fully vaccinated maintain social distance and wear a face covering. Because it can be hard to know who is vaccinated and who is not, some employers may decide to ask all employees to wear a face covering until more people in North Carolina are vaccinated.
- Post signage reminding employees and visitors to social distance and wear a face covering if they are not fully vaccinated. Because it can be hard to know who is vaccinated and who is not, employers may decide to post signage asking all employees and visitors to wear a face covering until more people in North Carolina are vaccinated.
- Remind employees to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Have a plan to immediately isolate and remove sick workers.
- Clean high-touch surfaces once a day.

4-H Summer Camp Returns

Anson County 4-H has officially returned from its hiatus and is resuming its annual 4-H Summer Camp.

4-H Agent Sam Cole said, “Due to safety precautions, camp will look different this year, but we are still excited about bringing back 4-H Summer Camp! The first week of camp started this past Tuesday and runs to Thursday, June 10. The second week of camp will begin in July (6 - 8), and the third week will resume the following week, July 13 - 15.”

Themes for this summer include “Animal Adventures” and “Home, Health & Nutrition.”

Slots typically fill quickly, but if you are interested in enrolling your youth in 4-H Summer Camp, reach out to the Anson Extension office to see if there are any slots available. 4-H participation is open to all youth regardless of sex, race, religion or national origin. For more information about 4-H in Anson County contact Samuel Cole, 4-H Agent, at 704-694-2915.

Farmers Market Fridays Have Begun

Are you a farmer interested in a new location to sell your goods to the Anson Community? Well look no further! The Anson County Health Department is hosting “Farmers Market Fridays” at the Health Department every Friday through July 28.

Farmers will be able to choose dates and select a time between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to set up and sell. Need a table or tent? No problem, the Health Department has you covered. Feel free to spread the word.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. For more information call Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342.

Taste of Nutrition - Free Cooking Classes Offered

Are you interesting in smarter and healthier eating after quarantine? If so, the Anson County Health Department is here to help. This Spring/Summer the Anson County Health Department is providing a free cooking class hosted at the Lockhart-Taylor Center called “Taste of Nutrition.” The class will be held every Wellness Wednesday, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. - June 23 until August 25.

The importance of this class is to encourage healthy eating amongst the Anson Community. The class will provide community members tips for healthier choices, demonstrations on nutrition fact labels, and materials on reducing sodium (salt) intake. The class will incorporate healthy-cooking techniques that will boost flavor and cut calories.

Taste of Nutrition will consist of a brief educational session on the importance of healthy eating followed by the recipe of the week. All attendees will be provided with their own cooking utensils, cooking appliances, and food. Social distancing will continue to be in place the entire class.

For weekly updates on Taste of Nutrition and the recipe of the week visit the Anson County Health Department Facebook page.

For more information contact Dinikia Savage at TasteOfNutrition21@gmail.com or 704-994-3342.

The Lockhart-Taylor Center is located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

Family Movie Night at Field of Dreams

Field of Dreams in Polkton is hosting an outdoor family movie night on Friday, June 18. The public is invited to come enjoy the movie, *The Sandlot*. Admission is free. Gates will open at 7:00 p.m. and the movie will begin at sunset (at approximately 8:45 p.m.). Concessions will be sold.

Be sure to bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Field of Dreams is located on Highway 74 in Polkton.

Wadesboro Lions Club Returns to Papa Joe’s with Special Guest

After 16 months and meeting in various locations, the Wadesboro Lions Club returns to Papa Joe’s Restaurant this Thursday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. They will continue meeting there every second and fourth Thursday of each month.

The special guest will be Zone 1 Chairman Lion Susan O’Brien from Waxhaw. She was named one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Waxhaw and is a Melvin Jones Fellow. Lion Susan is Senior Vice President of Procurement with Bank of America. She is married to her husband Michael, and they have four children and two grandchildren.

O’Brien will attend this meeting in celebration of the Wadesboro Lions Clubs 72nd anniversary. For more information regarding Lions and their services to our community, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

Fireworks Show in Uptown Wadesboro Set for June 26

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. and the Town of Wadesboro will present a “drive-in” fireworks display to be held on Saturday, June 26, beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Spectators are encouraged to view the display in their cars from parking areas uptown.

The rain date is Sunday, June 27.