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Anson County Covid-19 Update - Booster Doses Available

Vaccines & booster doses are available. Ansonians are urged to get vaccinated. Flu shots now available at the Health Department.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Monday, November 1 showed 3,899 total Covid-19 cases, with 71 active. There was an additional death from Covid-19 in the last week, bringing the total deaths to 82. Vaccines are available, including walk-in clinics. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information.

Vaccine boosters are now available at the Health Department. Moderna Boosters have been available to those that are immunocompromised but now is also available to those who meet the below criteria. Walk-in clinics are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Criteria for boosters is now as follows:

Moderna If you were vaccinated more than 6 months ago with the Moderna COVID-19 shot, boosters are now available for people:

- 65 and older,
 - 18 years or older who:
 - Live or work in a nursing home or long-term care facility,
 - Have underlying medical conditions; or,
 - Who work in high-risk settings like healthcare workers, teachers and childcare providers or food workers,
 - Live or work in a place where many people live together such as college dormitories or other group living settings.
- The Moderna booster is a smaller dose than what is given in the first two shots.

Johnson & Johnson It is recommended that anyone 18 or older who was vaccinated more than 2 months ago with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine get a booster dose.

Pfizer Pfizer booster shots have been available since September 24 to anyone at high risk for serious illness or exposure, and who received their second dose at least six months ago.

Individuals are now able to receive any brand of COVID-19 vaccine for their booster shot. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. The Health Department expects the demand to be very high for booster shots starting this week, and asks the public to please be patient with them.

The information for the different COVID-19 vaccine booster shots can be confusing. If you have questions, please reach out to the Health Department's Immunization Nurse, Lori Ross, at (704) 994-3384.

Covid Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. without an appointment. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot located 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.

Flu Shots The Health Department is offering both the regular flu shot and the high dose flu shot, for those 65 and over, on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, between 1:30 and 4 p.m. No appointment is needed. Just come on over to the Health Department with your ID and your insurance card and they will take care of you.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

Health Director Fred Thompson, PhD gave this update on October 25. "There has been some confusion between the third dose of the Moderna vaccine versus the booster shot of the Moderna vaccine. The third dose of the Moderna vaccine is a full dose for people who have a compromised immune system. We started the third dose of the Moderna at the end of August. The Moderna booster, which we started giving last week, is for people who do not have a compromised immune system, and it is one half of the dose received in the first series of the two shots. This can be confusing, but we are here to work that out with you. We can administer either the third dose or the booster - whichever is indicated.

Vaccine for Children The next big step with vaccines will be the roll out of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5 to 11. We expect final approval from DHHS by the end of the week and, pending receipt of the vaccine, we hope to be able to start offering sometime next week - details to follow. We will get an initial shipment of 300 doses of the Pfizer vaccine for children. It will be a series of two shots, 21 days apart, and each shot is one third of the adult dose. The Health Department is the only one in the county to get the Pfizer vaccine for children (the 300 doses) on what the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is calling the "first wave" of the rollout of the vaccine for the 5 to 11 age group.

I would like to see all of our eligible children, ages 5 to 11, get the vaccine. It will really help get the pandemic under control and make it safer for the kids and the staff in school, etc. Once enough kids are vaccinated, and if the number of new cases continues to decline, I look for DHHS to lift the mask mandates, not just for the kids when they are at school, but for everybody. I can't wait for that day.

We still offer the Moderna vaccine for people 18 and over and who have never gotten vaccinated. I encourage them to get vaccinated.

For any other questions or information you can reach the Health Department at 704-694-5188. Thank you!"

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, November 1 there were 1,096 new cases, with 18,104 deaths and 1,211 hospitalized. 71% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 67% were fully vaccinated.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner To-Go Plates November 13

The Lamb of God Church is conducting a community outreach free Thanksgiving dinner plates to-go on Saturday, November 13. It begins at 10:30 a.m. with plates on a first come, first served basis.

You are invited to come to the church, located at 118 West Wade Street in Wadesboro for your plate. For information call 843-623-3777.



AMS Blue Volleyball Team Wins Championship

The Anson Middle School Blue Volleyball team won the Conference Championship on Wednesday, October 13 at home. They defeated the Anson Middle School Orange team for the top honor. Congratulations to both teams for your First and Second Place finishes in the Conference!

Team members are pictured from left to right, front row: Elin Lockhart, Angeline Lee, Megan Kiser and Jada Clark. Back row: Emma Beam, Gretchen Henry, Mattie Carpenter, Brooklyn Miles, Eva Hyatt, Shelby Hastly, Layla Britt and Coach Kacie Winfield Hayes. Not pictured are Jahzaria Underwood and Jayanna Hamilton.

Again, congratulations to both AMS teams for your very successful season!

NC Navigators Stand Ready to Assist in 2022 Open Enrollment Through HealthCare.gov

Four out of five enrollees will pay less than \$10 a month for quality health coverage

North Carolinians can now enroll in health insurance for 2022 on HealthCare.gov. This open enrollment period began November 1, 2021 and ends January 15, 2022.

Health insurance is more affordable than many people think. With the increase in subsidies for Marketplace consumers included in the American Rescue Plan, four out of five enrollees will pay less than \$10 a month in premiums for quality health coverage, which is a very small price to pay for peace of mind.

Consumers enrolling in a plan on HealthCare.gov are guaranteed to receive comprehensive coverage, with no pre-existing condition exclusions or markups. All health plans on the Marketplace must cover doctor's visits, pre-existing conditions, hospitalizations, mental health care, maternity care, prescription drugs, laboratory services, and more. In addition, consumers receive free preventive care services, such as immunizations and health screenings. Testing and treatment of COVID-19 are considered essential health benefits and are covered by all HealthCare.gov plans.

This enrollment period, there are nine insurance carriers offering Marketplace plans in North Carolina and close to four carriers per county on average.

"We are excited to see new coverage providers in the state. This makes for increased competition, which is great for consumers across the state, as this means new options and better prices," said Mark Van Arnem, director of the NC Navigator Consortium.

"We're here to provide all the help you might need. From just answering questions, all the way through enrollment assistance and helping you understand and use your new health coverage. We have in-person and virtual appointments available. We're here to help," Van Arnem said. "I know folks could enroll at almost any time in 2021, but now we have returned to a general Open Enrollment that is only 10 weeks long. Make sure you take action by January 15 to get covered for 2022!"

The health insurance landscape can be confusing, but safe, virtual appointments are available. Navigators can help you find a plan that is right for you, your family, and your budget. Make sure you have the peace of mind that comes with health coverage during a pandemic by visiting the NC Navigator Consortium's website at ncnavigator.net or by calling the Consortium's toll-free helpline at 1-855-733-3711.

The NC Navigator Consortium is a group of nine health care, social service and legal aid organizations that helps North Carolina consumers enroll in affordable, comprehensive health insurance plans on HealthCare.gov, the Health Insurance Marketplace established by the Affordable Care Act. Members of the consortium are Access East, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Cumberland, HealthNet, HealthCare Access, HealthNet Gaston, Kintegra Health, NC Field, Pisgah Legal Services, and Legal Aid of North Carolina, which leads the consortium. Learn more at ncnavigator.net and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal help to low-income and vulnerable North Carolinians. Learn more at legallaidnc.org or follow them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

"Bearcat Beast" JROTC's New Challenge Course Celebration is November 10

The Anson High School JROTC Program will celebrate the opening of the "Bearcat Beast" Challenge Course with three former JROTC instructors on Wednesday, November 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the high school JROTC Building. The instructors honored are Major Gary Shaw, Sergeant Major Earlie Cabbler and First Sergeant Enoch Sturgill.

All former cadets are welcome to attend. Entrance and parking are at the JROTC Building which is located along Highway 74.

Public Input Needed on NCDOT Services

The N.C. Department of Transportation is again asking the public for feedback on how the agency is performing and ways it can improve its customer service. Now in its sixth year, NCDOT's survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and the link is mobile-friendly. Visit www.ncdot.gov to find the survey.

Participation can help the department identify ways to make North Carolina transportation services safer, more efficient and customer focused.

Administered by North Carolina State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education, the survey is grouped into eight core transportation services: motor vehicle transportation (highway), bicycle, pedestrian, transit (local bus), passenger rail, ferry, general aviation and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The N.C. General Assembly requires the survey and results be used to measure NCDOT's customer service performance across the department.

Survey responses must be received by the end of November. The results will be available to the public on the agency's website, www.ncdot.gov, by March 2022.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 10-29-2021				
Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	0	0	0	0
Anson High School	3	1	0	0
Anson Middle School	5	0	3	0
Ansonville Elementary	5	1	2	0
Lilesville Elementary	1	0	0	0
Morven Elementary	1	0	1	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	5	0	1	2
Wadesboro Elementary	2	1	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	2	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
Total	24	3	7	2
Total Students + Employees	27		9	
*Student Enrollment as of 10/29/21		# of Employees		513
*Enrollment changes daily		% of Employees Positive		0.39%
% of Students Positive		0.24%		

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