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Anson County Covid-19 Update - Vaccines for Kids 5 and Older

Booster doses are available.
Ansonians are urged to get tested & vaccinated.
Flu shots are available at the Health Department.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Friday, December 20 showed 4,157 total Covid-19 cases, with 46 active. The total deaths are 87.

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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

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 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.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, December 22 there were 2,892 new cases, with 19,167 deaths and 1,630 hospitalized. 73% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 69% were fully vaccinated.

Erin Thomas is Finalist for Statewide Beginning Teacher of the Year Honor

Congratulations to Erin Thomas, second grade teacher at Lilesville Elementary School, for being named as a finalist in the NC Center for Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) Beginning Teacher of the Year (BTOY). The process is determined by the Regional Education Service Alliance, with a total of 27 Regional winners. Erin will attend a celebration and week of Teacher Leadership at NCCAT's Cullowhee campus February 14-18, 2022, during which time the NCCAT BTOY Selection Committee will review portfolios and interview the 27 finalists. The winner of the NCCAT BTOY will be announced at a celebration event on February 17, 2022.



Good Luck Erin! Your whole Anson County School District family will be cheering you on!

Towns of Lilesville and Morven Awarded \$750,000 Neighborhood Revitalization Grants

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has awarded 21 Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) requests to local governments totaling \$14.9 million. The Towns of Lilesville and Morven were among the recipients, with each receiving a \$750,000 grant. The requests will provide housing and public improvements for low- and moderate-income North Carolinians.

"It costs more now to buy or rent so it's critical that we invest more in affordable housing," said Governor Roy Cooper. "These neighborhood revitalization grants will help us build stronger and more resilient communities across our state."

"Our most vulnerable communities are continuing to chart their path from this unprecedented pandemic," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "This funding will reinforce their revitalization efforts and infuse their community with more resources to support their long-term recovery."

The CDBG-NR offers a non-entitlement municipality or county the opportunity to tailor a community development project to address the specific and most critical needs of their community.

The following 21 communities were approved for CDBG-NR awards up to \$750,000 (county in parenthesis): Avery County \$750,000; Town of Calypso (Duplin) \$750,000; Town of Chadbourn (Columbus) \$750,000; Craven County (Craven) \$750,000; City of Edenton (Chowan) \$750,000; Town of Garysburg (Northampton) \$750,000; Halifax County (Halifax) \$750,000; City of Henderson (Vance) \$750,000; Town of Hobgood (Halifax) \$600,000; Town of Lilesville (Anson) \$750,000; City of Lumberton (Robeson) \$750,000; Mitchell County (Mitchell) \$750,000; Town of Morven (Anson) \$750,000; Town of Murphy (Cherokee) \$750,000; Town of Pink Hill (Lenoir) \$750,000; Town of Saratoga (Wilson) \$593,000; Town of Sharpsburg (Edgecombe) \$330,894; and Town of Tabor City (Columbus) \$750,000; Wayne County (Wayne) \$750,000; and Town of Windsor (Bertie) \$750,000.

The CDBG program is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program administered in part by N.C. Commerce. CDBG funds are awarded to enhance the vitality of communities by providing adequate housing, suitable living environments, infrastructure development, and expanding economic opportunities. The State must ensure that at least 70 percent of its CDBG grant funds are used for activities and projects that serve persons of low- and moderate-income.

For additional information about N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, visit: www.nccommerce.com/rd.

Anson County Airport Awarded \$159,000 Infrastructure Grant

Jeff Cloud Field, the name of Anson County's airport, was one of many airports across the state that received grants for infrastructure improvements. The Anson Airport is set to receive \$159,000.

North Carolina airports will receive more than \$458 million over the next five years as part of this funding.



PPES Students Donate Personal Hygiene Items to Area Charities

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School enjoys giving back to our community! Students at PPES collected personal hygiene items as a part of their Happy Healthy Holidays service project this year!

Hundreds of items were donated to Anson Crisis Ministry, Feed My Lambs, and Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition.

We are proud of our students for caring about others and helping our community!

Toyota's Billion-Dollar Battery Plant in Greensboro Can be a Positive for Anson County

This is a release from John Marek, Director of Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP): You probably saw the announcement last week that Toyota is building a billion-dollar battery plant at the megasite outside Greensboro and thought, well, that's nice and all, but it doesn't do anything for Anson County.

On the contrary, this is HUGE news for the Anson Economy! When a project of the scale of Toyota Battery lands in a community, it does two things; raises the cost of nearby property and sucks up all the available workforce, pricing many component suppliers out of the market.

Those suppliers begin looking for cost-effective locations to place their own facilities, typically seeking a "sweet spot" that is more than 50 miles from the customer's plant but still within a 90-120 minute drive.

Guess what falls exactly in that range; much of Anson County, but even more specifically the Atlantic Gateway Logistics Park.

When the Cordova interchange is completed late next year, Atlantic Gateway will be 75 uncongested highway miles from the Toyota plant. That "uncongested" part is a key differentiator against competition like Kernersville, Salisbury, or Lexington.



North Carolina's November Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, decreasing 0.2 of a percentage point from October's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.4 of a percentage point to 4.2 percent.

North Carolina's November 2021 unemployment rate decreased 2.5 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 18,133 over the month to 4,843,510 and increased 130,872 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 10,177 over the month to 198,226 and decreased 124,884 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 3,500 to 4,554,800 in November. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 5,000; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 2,400; Manufacturing, 1,700; Education & Health Services, 1,300; Other Services, 900; Information, 300; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,700; Construction, 1,900; Financial Activities, 1,300; and Government, 1,300.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since November 2020

| | Nov 2020 | Dec 2020 | Jan 2021 | Feb 2021 | Mar 2021 | Apr 2021 | May 2021 | Jun 2021 | Jul 2021 | Aug 2021 | Sep 2021 | Oct 2021 | Nov 2021 |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| N.C. | 6.4 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| U.S. | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.2 |

Please note: 2020 numbers have undergone annual revision

Since November 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 140,500 with the Total Private sector increasing by 137,100 and Government increasing by 3,400. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 43,200; Professional & Business Services, 34,400; Manufacturing, 21,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 18,200; Construction, 10,700; Information, 5,400; Other Services, 4,800; Government, 3,400; Financial Activities, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100.

The only major industry experiencing a decrease over-the-year was Education & Health Services, 1,100.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 12-17-2021

| Location/Site | Quarantined Students | Quarantined Employees | Positive Cases Students | Positive Cases Employees |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Anson Early College High School | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Anson High School | 14 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Anson Middle School | 9 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Ansonville Elementary | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lilesville Elementary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morven Elementary | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Peachland-Polkton Elementary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wadesboro Elementary | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wadesboro Primary | 0 | 1 | 1 | 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 | 35 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| Total Students + Employees | 40 | | 10 | |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| *Student Enrollment as of 12/17/21 | 2,955 |
| *Enrollment changes daily | |
| % of Students Positive | 0.27% |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| # of Employees | 513 |
| % of Employees Positive | 0.39% |

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

County Offices Closed for the Holidays

Anson County offices will be closed this Thursday, December 23 through Monday, December 27. They will resume operation on Tuesday, December 28.

County offices will also be closed for the New Year holiday on Friday, December 31 and Saturday, January 1.

All county emergency services and law enforcement will be in full operation during the holidays.

Looking for the Perfect Gift?

One of the best gifts is a broom, but not just any broom, a Lions Club broom. Yeah, sounds crazy and sounds like work, but brooms are the ideal presents. Everyone needs one!

You can never go wrong giving the gift that keeps on giving.

The Wadesboro Lions Club sells brooms to help meet humanitarian needs worldwide, and help an important local cause right here in Anson County, serving visually impaired citizens.

In support of that mission the Lions Club sells brooms, and the brooms are of excellent quality. The Original Soft Sweep Magnetic Action Broom features a unique magnetic cleaning action that picks up lint and dust, especially human and pet hair. It will not scratch any floor, and rinses clean and dries quickly. The kitten soft bristle is approximately 12" long and comes with a metal handle.

You can also purchase the forever-useful straw broom used throughout the house, porches and decks, or the patio broom used on porches, decks, sidewalks and carports.

Pick up yours at Allen's Restaurant in Peachland or Lacy's and Martin Furniture in Wadesboro for only \$12.

Want information regarding the Lions Club? Call 704-690-5092.

Addiction Recovery Support Group Meets Online on Wednesdays

The Virtual Addiction Recovery Support Group has resumed meetings, and they are now conducted online. The meetings are available to anyone who is interested each Wednesday, from 5 to 6 p.m.

For information on how to participate contact Kelly Kirk, NC Certified Peer Support Specialist, Registered Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor, Certified Recovery Coach at the Richmond County DHHS Peer Support Program. Her office number is 910-997-8424. Her email is Kelly.kirk@richmondnc.com.