



ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
Partners in Public Health

711 Roanoke Ave. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

NEWS RELEASE #148

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES UPDATE ON REGIONAL CASE COUNTS AND OUTBREAKS
ADDITIONAL DEATHS IN HERTFORD and PASQUOTANK COUNTIES

Elizabeth City, NC – Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is providing updated data of lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases as of 1 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020 in addition to the weekly surveillance report (attached).

ARHS has received notification confirming five additional deaths associated with COVID-19 in Hertford County residents. All individuals were over the age of 65 and succumbed to complications from COVID-19. Three of these deaths are associated with the facility outbreak at Ahoskie Assisted Living. Pasquotank County has also had nine deaths associated with complications of COVID-19. Six individuals were over the age of 65 and three were in the 50-64 year age range. These deaths are all associated with the facility outbreak at Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation.

County	# Lab Confirmed Cases	# Active Cases	# Recovered Cases	Total # of Deaths
Pasquotank	1,807	349	1,406	52
Perquimans	533	108	420	5
Camden	285	89	191	5
Chowan	821	162	636	23
Currituck	649	276	362	11
Bertie	1,204	75	1,099	30
Gates	357	136	209	12
Hertford	1,349	74	1,225	50
Totals	7,005	1,269	5,548	188

NC DHHS continues to focus on testing capacity at congregate living facilities therefore resulting in a number of recent outbreaks across the region. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases in a facility. When an outbreak is identified, additional contact tracing and testing is required in order to manage exposures and ensure proper steps are taken to protect both staff and residents. This often times identifies additional cases more quickly, including asymptomatic cases.

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COVID-19 Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities

Facility	Staff	Residents	Deaths
Ahoskie Assisted Living	11	8	3
Accordius Health and Rehabilitation	18	48	6
Bertie Correctional Institution	31	39	0
Brian Center Health and Rehab - Windsor	10	23	3
Chowan Rivers	5	1	0
Citadel of Elizabeth City	9	12	1
Creekside Care and Rehab	38	90	18
Currituck Health and Rehabilitation	32	58	3
Elizabeth City Health and Rehab	41	72	15
Rivers Correctional Institution	12	8	0
Three Rivers Health and Rehab	19	34	7
Pasquotank Correctional	4	19	0

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has updated its vaccination plan to align with new federal recommendations. North Carolina's updated plan is outlined below:

Current Phase- Phase 1a: Health care workers fighting COVID-19 and long-term care staff and residents - Hospitals and local health departments are vaccinating health care workers caring for and working directly with patients with COVID-19 and those giving vaccines. In addition, the federal government is vaccinating long-term care residents and staff.

Phase 1b: Adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers.

The next phase of vaccinations will open in groups.

- **Group 1:** Anyone 75 years or older regardless of medical condition or living situation. People do not have to have a chronic health condition.
- **Group 2:** Health care and frontline essential workers who are 50 years of age or older.
- **Group 3:** Frontline workers of any age and health care workers of any age, regardless of whether they work directly with COVID-19 patients. This phase is anticipated to begin in early January. The CDC defines frontline essential workers as first responders (firefighters, police), education (child care, teachers, support staff), manufacturing, corrections officers, public transit, grocery store, food and agriculture, and US postal workers.

Phase 2: Adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness.

In this phase, vaccinations will also open in groups.

- **Group 1:** Anyone ages 65-74 years regardless of medical condition or living situation.
- **Group 2:** Anyone 16-64 years with a medical condition that increases risk of severe disease from COVID-19.
- **Group 3:** Anyone who is incarcerated or living in other close group living settings who has not already vaccinated due to age, medical condition or job function.
- **Group 4:** Essential workers as defined by the CDC who have not yet been vaccinated.

Phase 3: Students.

- College, university and high school students 16 or older.
- Younger children will only be vaccinated when the vaccine is approved for them.

Phase 4: Finally, anyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccine will be able to get one.

ARHS has been able to provide 234 vaccines across the region since receiving the first initial doses last week. Vaccines have been targeted to Phase 1a healthcare providers and we plan to move into Phase 1b next week and as vaccine allotments increase.

“As we head into 2021, we look forward to continuing to work through the vaccination plan set forth by NCDHHS, states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, Health Director. “Vaccine supplies are limited right now but we expect in the months to come they will become more widely available. Even though we are moving into the vaccine phase of the pandemic it is still vital that we continue practicing the 3Ws - wear a face covering, keep 6 feet of social distancing, and wash hands well.”

COVID-19 testing is available for those meeting criteria by appointment only at the local health departments across the region. ARHS encourages residents to call their primary care provider for an assessment or information on testing availability before calling the local health department. If someone does not have a primary care home, ARHS does offer primary care services.

<p>Pasquotank County Health Department 252-338-4400</p> <p>Testing available: Thursday 1:30 – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Perquimans County Health Department 252-426-2100</p> <p>Testing available: Tuesday 1:30 - 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Camden County Health Department 252-338-4460</p> <p>Testing available: Thursday 1:30 – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Chowan County Health Department 252-482-6003</p> <p>Testing available: Monday 1:30 -3:30 pm</p>
<p>Currituck County Health Department 252-232-2271</p> <p>Testing available: Wednesday 1:30- 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Bertie County Health Department 252-794-5322</p> <p>Testing available: Wednesday 1:30 – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Gates County Health Department 252-357-1380</p> <p>Testing available: Monday 1:30 - 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Hertford County Health Department 252-862-4054</p> <p>Testing available: Tuesday 1:30 - 3:30 pm</p>

All tests will be completed through a curbside screening clinic at the local health department. For more information on criteria for COVID-19 testing or appointments, call 252-338-WELL/9355 or your local health department directly. **Please note, ARHS locations will be closed for the holiday on Friday, January 1, 2021.**

ARHS is collaborating with OptumServe to provide additional, no-cost COVID-19 testing sites in Bertie, Hertford, Gates, and Chowan counties. Typically testing is available Monday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday from 1 – 5 p.m. Testing sites will continue to remain open through the month of December. **Please note, testing times may vary due to the New Year holiday.** You may check availability and register to make an appointment for testing by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling (877) – 562-4850.

<p>Hertford County - Government Complex 115 Justice Dr. Winton, NC 27986</p> <p>Testing available: Monday, Thursday, & Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday & Friday 1 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Bertie County – Bertie Early College 819 Governor's Rd. Windsor, NC 27983</p> <p>Testing available: Monday, Thursday, & Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday & Friday 1 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Gates County - New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 94 NC-37, Gates, NC 27937</p> <p>Testing available: Monday, Thursday, & Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday & Friday 1 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Chowan County – American Legion, 1317 W Queen St, Edenton, NC 27932</p> <p>Testing available: Monday, Thursday, & Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday & Friday 1 - 5 p.m.</p>
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ARHS is continuing to ask our community citizens to be mindful in practicing preventive and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please remember these precautions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Practice social distancing; stay at least six feet away from others, avoid unnecessary travel, avoid handshakes, hugs and other close contact.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public.

For more information about COVID-19, visit these sites:

Albemarle Regional Health Services - <http://www.arhs-nc.org/> or call **252-338-WELL**

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

For more information, please contact Amy Underhill, ARHS Public Information Officer at 252-338-4448 or

aunderhill@arhs-nc.org.

Albemarle Regional Health Services is dedicated to disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy environment to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability through quality service, education, and advocacy.

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