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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES UPDATE ON REGIONAL VACCINE COUNTS

Update on vaccine registration process

Elizabeth City, NC – Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is providing updated information on COVID-19 vaccines, lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, and facility outbreaks as of 1 p.m. Friday, January 15, 2021 in addition to the weekly surveillance report (attached). We are beginning to shift our surveillance report to cover additional information on vaccine administrations and will be updating as we progress through the vaccination process.

NC DHHS has announced that vaccine providers can expand the vaccination process to individuals 65 and older.

Information on vaccine phases can be found here: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

In an effort to document demand and need for COVID-19 vaccine throughout the region, ARHS will be collecting names and contact information for each county through an online registration process. Therefore, anyone **WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED THEIR FIRST DOSE** and is interested in receiving the COVID Vaccine, should complete the registration form.

Registration can be found here: <http://www.arhs-nc.org/information/COVID-19/vaccines/>.

Based on the new state guidance, for the week of January 19-22, ARHS will be focused on registering those in Group 1 – healthcare workers and Group 2 – adults 65 and older. Survey links will be available on the ARHS website on **Monday, January 18** in order to shift to the new guidance and plan accordingly. We are asking individuals to be mindful of the target groups and the ARHS service area and only register if you are a resident and qualify for that target group. These groups will open up as we continue to get more vaccine.

ARHS has a set vaccine allocation for each county and the first individuals signed up and registered through the web link will be contacted to receive a vaccine appointment. You can only register for one county – if you register for more than one county, your name will be removed. If you are contacted for a clinic and do not show up, you will be required to re-register.

This list will be used for pre-registration for future first dose clinics. If you are not pre-registered for those clinics, you will not be able to receive vaccine at that time. These clinics will be advertised to recipients only and will NOT be mass first come, first served clinics.

Vaccine allotments will vary from week to week and ARHS is not notified of those numbers until the beginning of each week. Based on those numbers, ARHS will work to establish clinics to meet demand region wide.

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The registration process for second doses will be launched and announced next week. Please check the ARHS website for additional information.

“ARHS has had a robust start to our COVID-19 vaccine campaign across the region over the last two weeks and I cannot thank our community enough for the outpouring of support and patience with the vaccine process,” states R. Battle Betts,” Jr., MPA, ARHS Health Director. “Vaccine supplies allocated from the Federal and State government remain low, therefore the demand for the vaccine far exceeds our ability to vaccinate all who need and want it. ARHS remains committed to utilizing all of our resources to help ensure the vaccine is allocated to our region.”

Total First Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered: 11,815

County	Vaccine Administered	County	Vaccine Administered
Pasquotank	3385	Currituck	2300
Perquimans	1750	Bertie	800
Camden	740	Gates	700
Chowan	1040	Hertford	1100

ARHS COVID-19 Cases

County	# Lab Confirmed Cases	# Active Cases	# Recovered Cases	Total # of Deaths
Pasquotank	2,310	405	1,846	59
Perquimans	671	153	512	6
Camden	400	113	282	5
Chowan	996	179	793	24
Currituck	887	184	692	11
Bertie	1,402	159	1,213	30
Gates	455	157	286	12
Hertford	1,608	120	1,435	53
Totals	8,729	1,470	7,059	200

ARHS has received notification confirming an additional death associated with COVID-19 in a Hertford County resident. This individual was in the 50-64 year age range and succumbed to complications from COVID-19. This death is not associated with a facility outbreak. In addition, Perquimans County has also received notification of an additional death associated with complications of COVID-19. This individual was over the age of 65 and succumbed to complications from COVID-19. This death is not related to a facility outbreak.

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities

Facility	Staff	Residents	Deaths
Ahoskie Assisted Living	11	8	3
Accordius Health and Rehabilitation	28	48	6
Bertie Correctional Institution	31	39	0
Brian Center Health and Rehab - Windsor	20	23	3
Chowan Rivers	13	5	0
Citadel of Elizabeth City	9	14	1
Creekside Care and Rehab	38	90	18
Elizabeth City Health and Rehab	49	91	19
Three Rivers Health and Rehab	20	34	7
Pasquotank Correctional	4	19	0

The outbreaks at Currituck Health and Rehabilitation and Rivers Correctional have resolved.

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.

Although we are moving into the vaccine phase of the pandemic, COVID-19 testing is still 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.

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.

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. 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>Bertie County – Bertie Early College 819 Governor's Rd. Windsor, NC 27983</p>	<p>Gates County - New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 94 NC-37, Gates, NC 27937</p>	<p>Chowan County – American Legion, 1317 W Queen St, Edenton, NC 27932</p>
<p>Testing available:</p>	<p>Testing available:</p>	<p>Testing available:</p>	<p>Testing available:</p>
<p>Monday, Thursday, & Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday & Friday 1 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Monday, Thursday, & Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday & Friday 1 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Monday, Thursday, & Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday & Friday 1 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>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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