



ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
Partners in Public Health

711 Roanoke Ave. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES UPDATE ON REGIONAL VACCINE CLINICS
Updated COVID-19 vaccine counts, cases, and outbreaks

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, August 20, 2021 in addition to the weekly surveillance report (attached).

The CDC and NC DHHS recommends that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised receive an additional dose of the Pfizer or Modern vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose of the initial two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series. It is not recommended that immunocompromised people who were vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine get an additional dose at this time. There is not enough data on the safety and effectiveness of an additional vaccine dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for it to be authorized. This recommendation may change as more data is available.

People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are more at risk of serious, prolonged illness. Those with compromised immune systems may not build the same level of immunity to 2-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised. Therefore, this additional dose is intended to improve immunocompromised people's response to their initial vaccine series.

The CDC is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose. This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

Individuals should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them before scheduling their vaccine appointment.

ARHS will be accepting appointments for third dose vaccines for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals living in the eight-county region. ARHS Residents can begin calling their local health department on Monday, August 23rd to schedule a third dose vaccine appointment.

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At this time, booster doses for **ALL** will **NOT** be administered but ARHS does anticipate that booster doses for ALL individuals will be available on or after September 20th, following both FDA and ACIP approval and recommendations. It is anticipated that doses will be offered 8 months after an individual received their second vaccine. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Please note the difference between an additional or third dose, and a booster. The additional dose is for those who are severely immunocompromised and is administered when the immune response following a primary vaccine series is likely to be insufficient. A booster is administered when the initial sufficient immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have waned over time. **No booster doses are recommended at this time, until further guidance is provided by the FDA and CDC.**

“The recommendation of a third dose for those who are immunocompromised will offer additional protection to high-risk individuals as we continue to see a surge of the Delta variant in the region,” states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, ARHS Health Director. “Talk to your healthcare provider and if it is determined you qualify for this additional dose, schedule your appointment. Vaccinations continue to be the best protection against the virus. As we continue to learn more information about booster doses, we will communicate our plans. ARHS is working to prepare for this next phase in the vaccine campaign. Continue to monitor our website, press releases, and other media outlets for additional information in the coming weeks.”

ARHS is continuing to accept vaccine appointments for first and second dose Moderna and Pfizer, along with Johnson and Johnson, at each of our local health departments. Appointments will be available to residents of the eight county region who are 12 and older.

Pasquotank County Health Department 252-338-4400	Perquimans County Health Department 252-426-2100	Camden County Health Department 252-338-4460	Chowan County Health Department 252-482-6003
Currituck County Health Department 252-232-2271	Bertie County Health Department 252-794-5322	Gates County Health Department 252-357-1380	Hertford County Health Department 252-862-4054

Total First Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 46,399

County	Vaccine Administered	County	Vaccine Administered
Pasquotank	11,416	Currituck	8,391
Perquimans	4,547	Bertie	5,597
Camden	3,434	Gates	3,396
Chowan	4,782	Hertford	4,836

Total Second Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 43,551

County	Vaccine Administered	County	Vaccine Administered
Pasquotank	10,171	Currituck	8,061
Perquimans	4,053	Bertie	5,286
Camden	3,343	Gates	3,595
Chowan	4,330	Hertford	4,712

ARHS COVID-19 Cases

County	# Lab Confirmed Cases	# Active Cases	# Recovered Cases	Total # of Deaths
Pasquotank	3,716	91	3,536	89
Perquimans	1,128	27	1,089	12
Camden	745	20	718	7
Chowan	1,662	63	1,561	38
Currituck	1,805	65	1,723	17
Bertie	1,929	59	1,823	47
Gates	813	27	773	13
Hertford	2,250	60	2,125	65
Totals	14,048	412	13,348	288

ARHS is reporting two deaths related to COVID-19, neither of which is affiliated with a long-term care facility. One death is in the 50 to 64-year-old range and from Camden County. The second is 65 or older and from Pasquotank County.

There is currently one active long-term care facility outbreak in the region in Gates County at Gates House. There are two resident and one staff affiliated with this outbreak.

COVID-19 testing is still available by appointments at the local health departments across the region. Tests will be completed through a curbside screening clinic. To schedule an appointment call your local health department directly.

ARHS is collaborating with OptumServe to provide additional, no-cost COVID-19 testing sites in Bertie and Hertford counties. Typically testing is available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday from 1 – 5 p.m.; however, times and days may change so please call or check the website prior to going to a site. You may check availability and register to make an appointment for testing by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling (877) 562-4850.

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

Albemarle Regional Health Services - <http://www.arhs-nc.org/> or call **252-338-WELL** or **1-833-640-SHOT**

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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