



ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
Partners in Public Health

711 Roanoke Ave. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

NEWS RELEASE #214

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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. Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in addition to the weekly surveillance report (attached). **Note: This serves as the weekly update. No release will be issued on Friday due to the Christmas Holiday. The next release will be on Tuesday, December 28.**

ARHS is reporting that the Omicron variant has been detected in a lab confirmed case in Chowan County. While not every lab confirmed case is typed to determine the particular virus strain, a sampling is done of all cases submitted in order to determine what strains are currently circulating.

“We are currently seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases across the state and country,” states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, ARHS Health Director. “With the identification of the Omicron variant in the ARHS region, we are reminded that our efforts to stay safe and healthy are crucial. While we do not want to cause any additional alarm or panic, it is important to remember we can take the necessary steps to protect ourselves and loved ones. The Omicron variant is two to three times as contagious as the Delta variant, making it four to six times as contagious as the original COVID-19 virus. Vaccinations including booster doses remain the most important factor in preventing serious illness, hospitalizations, and death. Early evidence shows that boosters provide a significant level of protection against Omicron.”

ARHS continues to offer appointments for Pfizer vaccinations for ages 5 years and older, as well as Moderna and Johnson & Johnson for adults 18 and over. Appointments are available to residents of the eight-county region. Appointments are for first, second, third and booster doses. If you have received any previous COVID-19 vaccines, please bring your vaccine card with you to your appointment. Parental consent is required for children 17 and younger. **Please note ARHS will be closed for the holidays on Thursday, December 23, Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27. We will resume services on Tuesday, December 28 and 8 a.m.**

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

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ARHS COVID-19 Vaccines Administered

Due to the short holiday week, vaccine totals will be updated in the December 28 release.

County	Total First Doses Administered	Total Second Doses Administered	Total Booster/ Third Doses Administered
Pasquotank	12,226	11,286	2,666
Perquimans	4,787	4,417	1,902
Camden	3,655	3,719	1,034
Chowan	4,953	4,610	948
Currituck	8,583	8,506	1,482
Bertie	5,763	5,567	986
Gates	3,612	3,951	1,220
Hertford	5,008	4,963	1,093

Total First Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 48,587

Total Second Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 47,019

Total Booster/Third Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 11,331

ARHS COVID-19 Cases

County	# Lab Confirmed Cases	# Active Cases	# Recovered Cases	Total # of Deaths
Pasquotank	5,717	59	5,542	116
Perquimans	1,770	27	1,724	19
Camden	1,292	15	1,268	9
Chowan	2,442	41	2,355	46
Currituck	3,179	51	3,101	27
Bertie	2,625	36	2,534	55
Gates	1,190	16	1,155	19
Hertford	2,960	14	2,872	74
Totals	21,175	259	20,551	365

ARHS is reporting one death in a Hertford County resident. This individual was in the 65 and older age group. This death is not associated with a facility outbreak.

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities

Facility	Staff	Residents	Deaths
The Citadel	3	0	0
Elizabeth City Health and Rehab	13	33	5

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, Chowan, and Hertford counties. The Pasquotank County site is no longer available. Optum sites offer PCR only tests.

Typically testing is available most days of the week 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.

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.
- 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.
- Get vaccinated.

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

Albemarle Regional Health Services - <http://www.arhs-nc.org/> or call **252-338-WELL (9355)** or **1-833-640-SHOT (7468)**

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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