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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, October 22, 2021 in addition to the weekly surveillance report (attached).

“The FDA and CDC have officially granted authorization for COVID-19 booster doses of Moderna and Johnson and Johnson,” states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, ARHS Health Director. “We are now working to update our local standing orders and finalize local dispensing plans. ARHS is preparing for the expansion of our vaccine campaign and will announce details next week including who is eligible, along with clinic and appointment information; we have plenty of vaccine to meet the demand. In addition, we are continuing to wait for approvals of the Pfizer vaccine for children 5-11 years of age. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic.”

ARHS is continuing to accept vaccine appointments for Moderna and Pfizer, along with Johnson and Johnson. Appointments will be available to residents of the eight county region who are 12 and older. Appointments for third dose vaccines for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals living in the eight-county region are being accepted for Moderna and Pfizer. Booster doses for Pfizer are also available.

“At this stage in the pandemic, and while weighing your options for vaccination along with those of your children, it is important to remember the purpose of a vaccine,” said Betts. “While vaccines are crucial for protection and prevention against illness in an individual, historically, they are so much more. When vaccination rates are high, additional protection is offered to the entire community, making it difficult for the virus to spread. When we don’t have good levels of community protection, we see outbreaks and will continue to see changes in the virus that make the vaccine less protective for individuals as well. This safe and effective vaccine is a key to a brighter future.”

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

County	Total First Doses Administered	Total Second Doses Administered	Total Booster /Third Doses Administered
Pasquotank	12,057	10,950	780
Perquimans	4,746	4,342	98
Camden	3,611	3,656	60
Chowan	4,896	4,565	43
Currituck	8,532	8,421	362
Bertie	5,716	5,518	28
Gates	3,587	3,898	72
Hertford	4,953	4,912	79

Total First Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 48,098

Total Second Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 46,262

Total Booster/Third Doses of ARHS Vaccine Administered – 1,522

ARHS COVID-19 Cases

County	# Lab Confirmed Cases	# Active Cases	# Recovered Cases	Total # of Deaths
Pasquotank	5,177	129	4,941	107
Perquimans	1,519	31	1,471	17
Camden	1,121	28	1,085	8
Chowan	2,278	32	2,204	42
Currituck	2,706	48	2,632	26
Bertie	2,453	17	2,383	53
Gates	1,077	19	1,039	19
Hertford	2,827	38	2,718	71
Totals	19,158	342	18,473	343

ARHS is reporting one death related to COVID-19 in each of the following counties: Bertie, Chowan, Currituck, Gates and Hertford. The individuals in Bertie and Hertford were over the age of 65, while all others were in the 50-64 year age range. One death was associated with a long-term care facility outbreak.

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COVID-19 Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities

Facility	Staff	Residents	Deaths
Accordious Care – Creekside	0	5	1
Ahoskie Assisted Living	2	0	0
Albemarle District Jail	1	3	0
Chowan Rivers	1	1	0
Currituck Health and Rehab	2	4	0
Edenton House	4	6	0
Elizabeth City Health and Rehab	11	30	3
Heritage Care	3	16	0
Waterbrooke	7	3	0

The outbreak at Brian Center in Hertford, NC has resolved.

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, Hertford, and Pasquotank counties. The Pasquotank site is offering rapid tests along with PCR tests. All other Optum sites offer PCR only. 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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