NEWS RELEASE #213

December 17, 2021   Contact Information:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   Amy Underhill, Public Information Officer
                                                     Phone: 252-338-4448
                                                     Email: aunderhill@arhs-nc.org

<u>**ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES UPDATE ON REGIONAL VACCINE CLINICS**</u>
<u>**Updated COVID-19 vaccine counts, cases, and outbreaks**</u>

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, December 17, 2021 in addition to the weekly surveillance report (attached).

"As our community prepares for the holiday season, take action now to protect yourself and your loved ones by getting your COVID-19 vaccine," states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, ARHS Health Director. "To help reduce the spread of the virus this winter there are several things we can do. Before you travel or gather with others, get your vaccine, booster doses and flu shot. Get tested if you are a feeling sick and stay home if you are experiencing any symptoms. We also encourage everyone to wear a mask indoors in public, even if you are vaccinated. We are starting to see a slight increase in cases across the state, but if we act now and follow these prevention and mitigation strategies, we can hopefully avoid a large surge in cases."

For additional information on protecting yourself this holiday season, click here: Winter Holiday Gathering Guidance (ncdhhs.gov)

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	Perquimans County Health Department	Camden County Health Department	Chowan County Health Department
252-338-4400	252-426-2100	252-338-4460	252-482-6003
Currituck County Health Department	Bertie County Health Department	Gates County Health Department	Hertford County Health Department
252-232-2271	252-794-5322	252-357-1380	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	12,226	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	5,693	64	5,513	116
Perquimans	1,750	24	1,707	19
Camden	1,280	26	1,245	9
Chowan	2,422	21	2,355	46
Currituck	3,150	40	3,083	27
Bertie	2,608	37	2,516	55
Gates	1,185	24	1,142	19
Hertford	2,953	17	2,863	73
Totals	**21,041**	**253**	**20,424**	**364**

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

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COVID-19 Outbreaks in Congregate Living Facilities

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

The outbreak at Gates House 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, 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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