

Chowan Sees Spike in Lab-Confirmed COVID Cases

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Albemarle Regional Health Service reported Chowan County has seen a spike in COVID-19 cases within the last week.

Also, ARHS said two residents of Hertford County died recently from COVID-19. Both individuals were over the age of 65 and succumbed to complications from COVID-19. These most recent deaths are attributed to the facility outbreak at Creekside Care and Rehabilitation. To protect each families' privacy, no further information about these patients will be released.

These deaths were the 93rd related to the coronavirus in the eight-county region.

Center for Disease Control's latest death counts indicate that the crude case fatality rate is around 28 percent for patients 85 or older and 18 percent for 75-to-84-year-olds.

That rate falls to about 8 percent for 65-to-74-year-olds, 2 percent for 50-to-64-year-olds, 0.6 percent for patients in their 40s, 0.2 percent for patients in their 30s, 0.06 percent for patients in their late teens and early 20s, 0.02 percent for 5-to-17-year-olds, and 0.04 percent for children 4 and younger.

The COVID-19 case count in ARHS' eight-county region grew to 3,154 cases — an increase of 173 cases since a week ago. The number of active cases fell to 270 cases — a decrease of more than 100 since a week ago.

The number of persons in the eight counties

who've recovered from the virus, meanwhile, rose to 2,793 — an increase of 273 in a week.

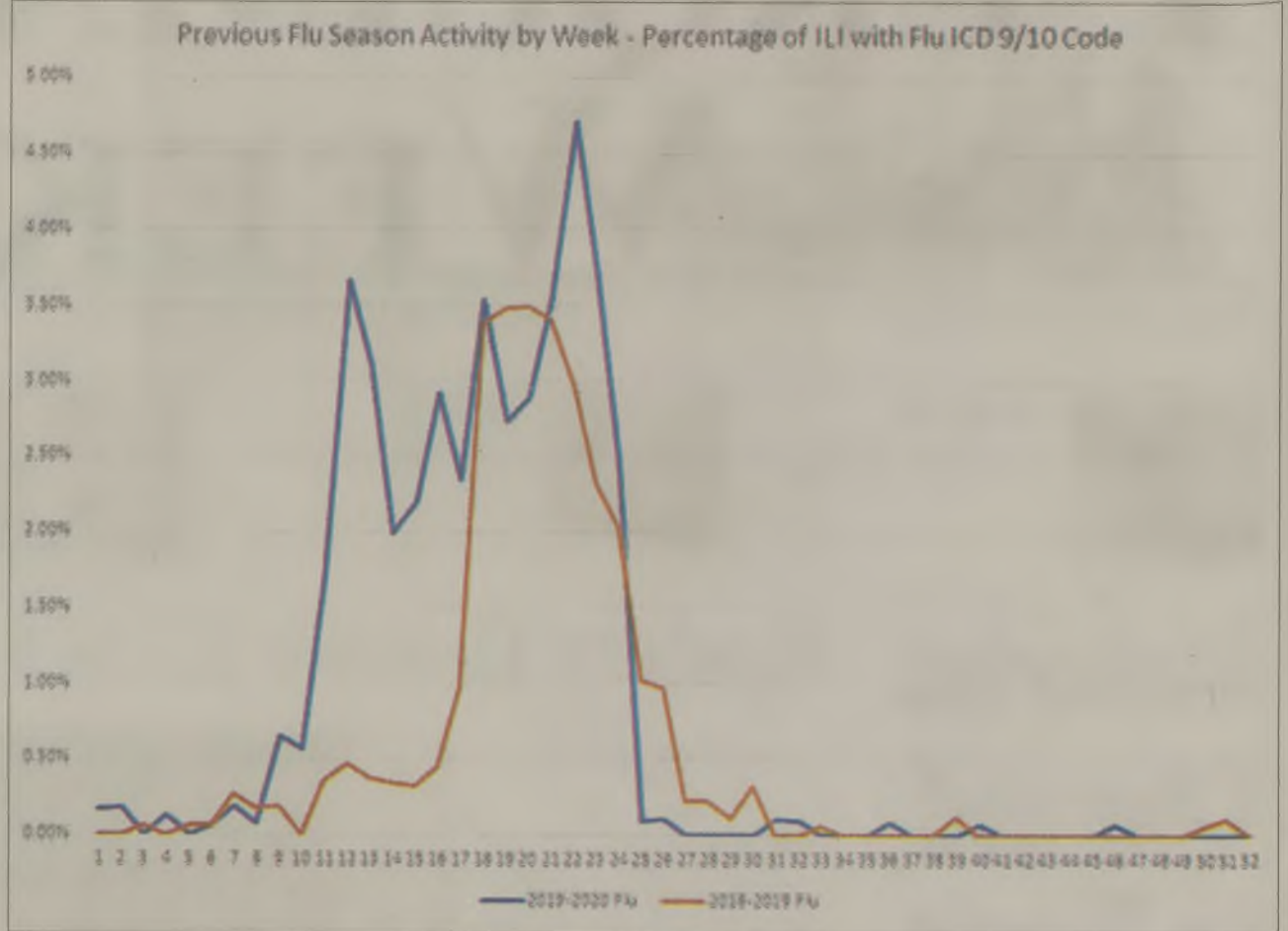
Last week, Chowan County — 386 lab confirmed cases — 108 active, 275 recovered, and 3 deaths. A week earlier, Chowan County had 346 lab confirmed cases — 89 active, 255 recovered, and 2 deaths.

When asked about the latest spike in Chowan County, ARHS Spokeswoman Amy Underhill said during the past week the health service has noticed additional cases have fed into the state reporting system that were actually from tests conducted over the past four months. There were over 70 cases region wide that were late feeds.

"Staff have been reviewing each case before determining their status and as progress is made in contacting each individual case, we anticipate being able to mark a significant number of these cases as resolved. Chowan County is also experiencing several outbreaks at three local long-term care facilities," she said.

According to ARHS latest figures, Perquimans County has 191 lab confirmed cases — 3 active, 185 recovered, and 3 deaths. A week earlier, Perquimans County had 186 lab confirmed cases — 24 active, 159 recovered, and 3 deaths.

The CDC's overall infection fatality estimate implies that COVID-19, while not nearly as lethal as initially feared, is about six times as deadly as the seasonal



flu.

Worth noting, Underhill said as far as flu activity, ARHS has not seen much in our area as of yet. She said ARHS' baseline is usually around 2% when the health service starts seeing flu season activity with increases up to 8% during the most active part of the season. The beginning of flu season is just starting now.

Moreover, while flu deaths are reported, flu is not considered a reportable condition, therefore influenza like illness from emergency department data and lab data from

sentinel surveillance sites are instrumental in determining flu activity in our region and across the state, Underhill said.

During the 2019-20, there was one flu death reported to ARHS and statewide, there were 186 flu deaths, which represents 0.002% of the state's total population, according to data from the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Overall, about 6 percent of the population experienced an influenza-like illness during the flu season that ended in February. There were 1,593 flu

deaths statewide between 2009 and 2020, according to NCDHHR data.

Meanwhile back to Covid-19; Bertie had a reported 627 total lab-confirmed covid cases, of which 13 were active as of Monday. There were 603 recovered cases and 11 deaths reported.

Camden had a total of 121 lab-confirmed covid cases. Of those 15 were still active, while 103 were recovered. Three deaths were reported.

Currituck County had a total of 194 lab-confirmed cases. Of those cases, 13 were active, 178 recovered

with three deaths.

Gates had 146 total lab-confirmed cases, with two still being active. There were 141 recovered cases and three deaths. Hertford had 801 total lab-confirmed cases, 32 of which were active. A total of 735 were recovered. Thirty-four death were reported.

Pasquotank had 746 total lab-confirmed cases, of which 101 were active, 612 were recovered and 33 deaths occurred.

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FROM THE EASEL

Perquimans Arts League News

BY ED SANFORD
Perquimans Arts League
President

Thanks to everyone who responded to our quick survey regarding receptions.

Your input is valuable, and we will use it to make decisions regarding gatherings. The reception scheduled for this coming Thursday, October 8th is cancelled. It appears that many of you would attend a reception if we held it later in the month.

This information, along with our artists' desire to showcase their work publicly, are the primary considerations. We will also continue to monitor guidance from the governor's office.

In the meantime our next exhibit, "Reap What You Sow," will be on display on October 8th along with the work of our featured artist, Tom Brennan. I hope that you stop by the gallery and see this fine work. We will keep you apprised regarding scheduled events. Until



ED SANFORD

then, try to enjoy the beautiful fall weather and stay safe.

Upcoming Shows
The "Reap What You Sow"

exhibit will open on Thursday, October 8. The Featured Artist will be photographer Tom Brennan. Many of Tom's photographs highlight barns, farm machinery and fields. The exhibit will run until November 6. Drop-off dates are October 6 and 7. A reception may be scheduled later in the month, and we will keep you informed.

The following show will be the Christmas Shoppe, where we will showcase holiday ornaments, decorations and loads of gift ideas. The exhibit will open on November 16 and run through the end of the year. Drop-off dates will be November 10 and 11.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LOG

Perquimans County Sheriff's Office arrests between Sept. 25 and Oct. 1:

- George Pope of West Grubb Street, Hertford, was arrested Sept. 30 and charged with failure to appear. Bond was set at \$2,000 unsecured.
- Willie Story of Four Mile Desert

Road, Hertford, was arrested Sept. 30 and charged with failure to appear. Bond was set at \$2,000 secured.

■ Thomas Kirby of Harvey Point Road, Hertford, was arrested Oct. 1 and charged with failure to appear. Bond was set at \$2,000 secured.

Truck Driving Training Ready to Roll

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Chowan Herald

The final piece of equipment for College of the Albemarle's new truck driving program rolled into the Edenton-Chowan campus on Monday.

The 2009 International sleeper truck was purchased from Lilley International, a truck dealership with locations throughout eastern North Carolina. A donation from Colony Tire and Atlantic Tire, regional companies based in Edenton, helped pay for the truck.

With the addition of the truck, the training program has two trucks and several trailers to use for the 10-week course set to start in November.

Colony Tire and Atlantic Tire CEO Charles "Charlie" Creighton noted how it takes multiple villages — businesses, nonprofits, government entities and private citizens — to get a program such as the truck driving training one, off the ground.

Scott Breon, the pro-



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Laurence Lilley, with Lilley International, closes the door on a 2009 International sleeper truck that his company gave to College of the Albemarle on Monday for its truck driving program at the Edenton-Chowan campus.

gram's instructor, said he plans to have students in the vehicles by the second day of class, but it won't be until the fifth week when the students will actually hit the road.

The program will be offered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, for a total 384 hours. Future plans for 2021 include

range maneuvers, motor carrier safety regulations (DOT 380-397 and a certificate for entry-level drivers), trip planning, cargo handling, size/weight laws, general maintenance procedures, hours of service, and accident prevention. All training, instruction, and testing are completed at college-approved facility with school-provided equipment.

The program will be held at Edenton's airport. COA President Jack Bagwell said classes will be in a portion of the facility that is currently vacant. It is undergoing repairs so as to be able to host classes, which will start in November.

As for the sleeper truck, Creighton said the companies' \$10,000 donation will also go toward getting the truck wrapped with the COA's logo.

An information session for the truck driving program was held Tuesday. Breon said he hoped the session would garner enough interest in the program that they could create a waiting list for future courses.

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