



COVID-19 Situation Update for Ashe County January 29, 2021

This document is intended to provide a regular update on the local response to COVID-19 in our communities and timely, trended data related to COVID-19. This report will be published on Fridays.

“This has been a very difficult year for so many dealing with this virus and the impacts it has had on everyone’s daily lives. With vaccine being administered, this will be our best tool to slow the spread of the virus and fight this pandemic but it will take some time to get everyone vaccinated since we have limited amounts of vaccine. We are working very hard to get vaccine out to the community as quickly and efficiently as possible but with small amounts of vaccine, we are limited to the number we can vaccinate week to week. We appreciate everyone’s patience and are hopeful we will receive more vaccine in the coming weeks,” stated Jennifer Greene, Health Director, AppHealthCare.



Vaccinating Makes Everyone Safer - COVID-19 Vaccine Update

This week we learned that NC DHHS is going to modify the way it is allocating vaccines in our state to provide vaccine providers a rolling estimate of vaccines for three weeks. This is a big improvement and will help us better plan. We have been notified that we will receive 200 first doses for Ashe County each week for the next three weeks. We expect to receive 100 second doses for Ashe next week as well.

What phase are we in for Ashe County?

Group 1 and Group 2 are eligible for vaccine now. This includes health care workers with in-person patient contact, long-term care staff and residents—people in skilled nursing facilities, adult care homes, continuing care retirement communities and anyone 65 years or older, regardless of health status or living situation.



How many doses of vaccine do we have?

First Doses (Data as of January 29, 2021)	
Total First Doses Received	Total First Doses Administered
1,800	1,800

Second Doses (Data as of January 29, 2021)	
Total Second Doses Received	Total Second Doses Administered
500	70

The total doses of vaccine received includes vaccine that was transferred to us from the hospital.

Mass Vaccination Event Update - Saturday, January 23rd at Ashe High School

We are very appreciative to all of the staff, volunteers and partners who made this event successful. We were able to administer 500 doses of vaccine. The individuals who were vaccinated at this event will be invited back to get their second dose at another mass vaccination event on Saturday, February 20th. We will reach out to these individuals directly to schedule their second dose appointment. We are thankful for the many local partners who gave their time to assist with the event. The event would not have been possible without them. Thank you to Ashe Emergency Management, Ashe Memorial Hospital, Ashe County Government, Ashe County Schools, Ashe County Sheriffs Office, Ashe Medics, Ashe County Chamber of Commerce, West Jefferson Fire Department and West Jefferson Police Department.

Interested in Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine?

We have launched a COVID-19 vaccine interest form for anyone interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone can fill out the form regardless of which phase they will fit into. You can find the form on our website [here](#).

Want to Volunteer for a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic?

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help with COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Alleghany, Ashe or Watauga County, please complete [this form](#).

INTERESTED IN A COVID VACCINE?

Complete the interest form online at www.apphealthcare.com/covid-19-vaccinations.

If you need assistance, please call our Call Center at (828) 795-1970.

The vaccine will be offered **free of charge to everyone** whether or not you have health insurance. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit our website [here](#) or NC DHHS's website [here](#).

Key Points

Case Updates

For the week of January 17-23 (graphs below), there was a decrease in new cases and a slight increase on the number of individuals in quarantine.

Statement from Ashe Memorial Hospital

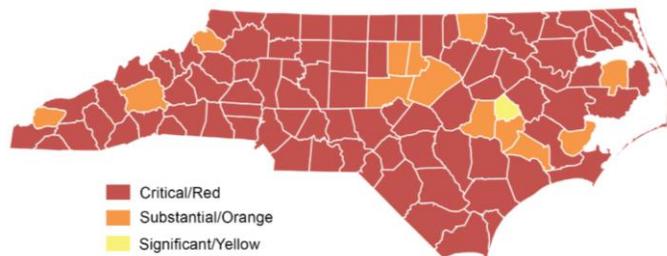
As COVID-19 continues to impact our neighbors and surrounding counties, we encourage everyone to do their part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, washing their hands, and social distancing whenever possible. The safety and well-being of our community is our top priority. We have protocols in place to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our patients and our community.

NC DHHS County Alert System Notes

Critical Community Spread for Ashe County

In the latest update, Ashe County is **RED** which notes critical community spread. This system outlines actions we can take to lessen the impact and spread in our community. You can read more about the [County Alert System on NC DHHS's website](#).

NC Counties by Tier: Data from January 3 through January 16, 2021



We continue case investigation and contact tracing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If you receive a call from a member of our case investigation or contact tracing team, we urge you to cooperate and provide information that will help us conduct response efforts. You may receive a call from (844) 628-7223 or (828) 264-4995. It may also show up as “NC Outreach” or “Contact Tracing.” Your cell phone carrier may flag the call as spam. It is so important to answer the call of a contact tracer. It is a key tool in slowing the spread of this virus.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) levels remain stable in most areas.

Testing

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, we recommend you be tested. You can [check your symptoms](#) and determine if testing is needed. To find a testing site near you, visit [NC DHHS's Find My Testing Place](#).

Turnaround Times for Testing remains between 2 and 4 days. NC DHHS provides data on testing turnaround times. This data is updated daily and can be found [here](#).

Free COVID-19 Testing at AppHealthCare by Appointment. We are offering testing on Mondays and Thursdays of each week. Please do not just show up for testing. We request that you schedule an appointment through our [website](#) or by calling our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970.



Testing is also offered by appointment at Mountain Family Care Center (336) 846-6322 (located on the campus of Ashe Memorial Hospital), [CVS Pharmacy in West Jefferson](#), [Ashe Pediatrics](#) and other local healthcare providers may offer testing as well.

Active Outbreaks and Clusters

Data is provided for outbreaks and clusters that are active and ongoing. The number of cases for outbreaks and clusters are current as of each Thursday at 9:00am. The case counts vary day by day as new cases are identified and as cases are moved in and out of isolation. This data may not match other reported data since this is a point in time. As we conduct outbreak and case investigations, the data included in this report are subject to change. For a current case count, visit the [AppHealthCare data dashboard](#), which is updated daily by noon.

An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases. A cluster is defined as a minimum of five cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period and plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases. An outbreak or cluster is considered over if 28 days have passed after the latest date of symptom onset in a symptomatic person or first date of specimen collection from the most recent asymptomatic person, whichever is later. Additional information on the [definitions of outbreaks and clusters](#) is provided by the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services. NC DHHS also provides regularly updated information on [outbreaks and clusters](#).

Active Outbreaks & Clusters				
<i>Data is current as of Thursday, January 28, 9:00am</i>				
Facility or Setting Type	Facility or Setting Name	Active Cases	Cumulative Cases	Last Positive Result
Long Term Care Facility	Margate Health & Rehab	0	57 staff 89 residents 18 deaths	01/02/2021

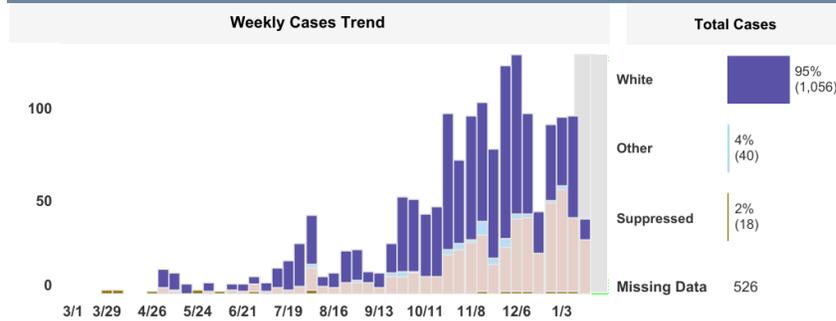
Mitigation and Response Efforts

- Ongoing testing continues to monitor the health of residents in skilled nursing facilities
- Educational outreach on COVID-19 prevention with these facilities
- Positive cases are separated from others to allow for safe isolation
- Ongoing daily health monitoring is occurring at the facilities
- Monitoring of positive cases continues with public health staff

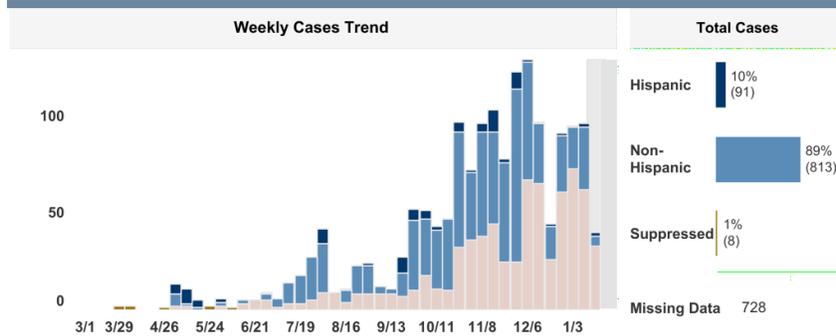
Demographic Data from NC DHHS as of January 25th

NC DHHS updates this data daily and can be found on [NC DHHS's website](#).

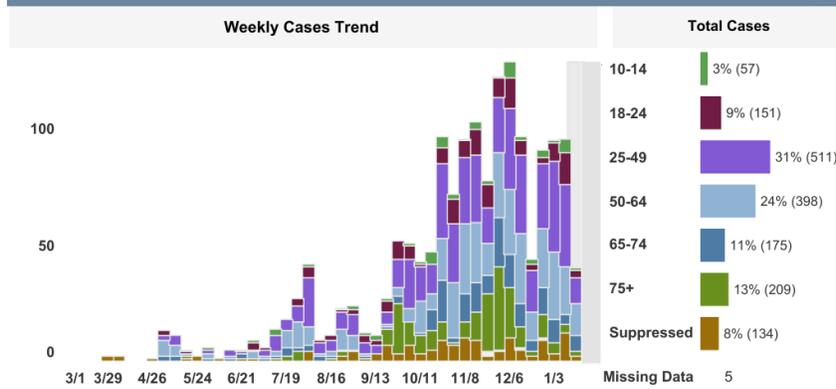
Cases by Race for Ashe County



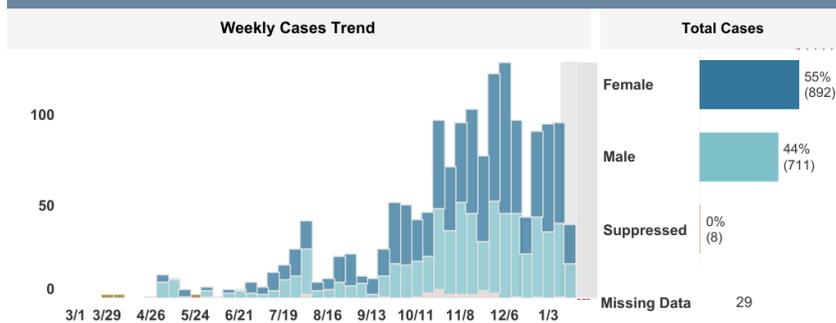
Cases by Ethnicity for Ashe County



Cases by Age for Ashe County



Cases by Gender for Ashe County



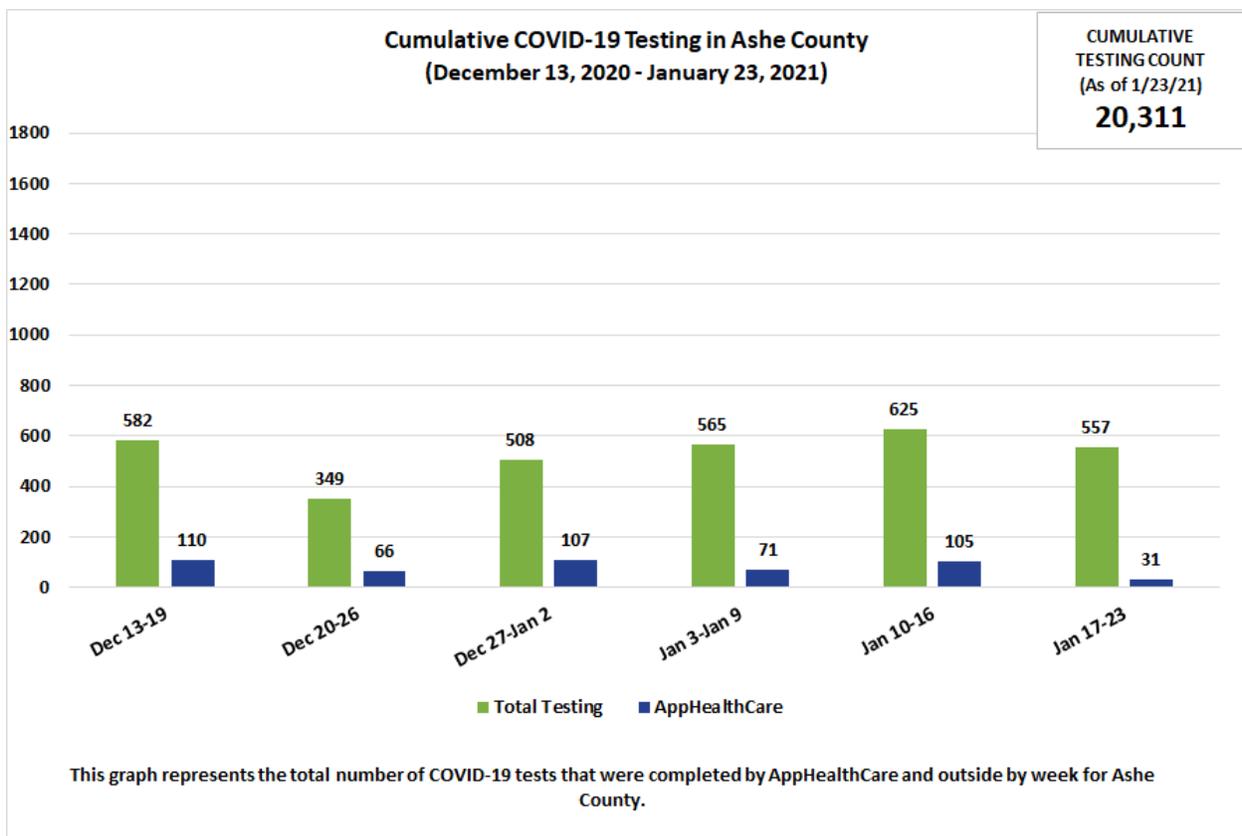
January 25, 2021

Data for Ashe County

An important note about data context: The graphs below show the available data. Please carefully read the descriptions below the graph to understand the data limitations. The most current data is available on the [AppHealthCare dashboard](#), as the data below is past data trended.

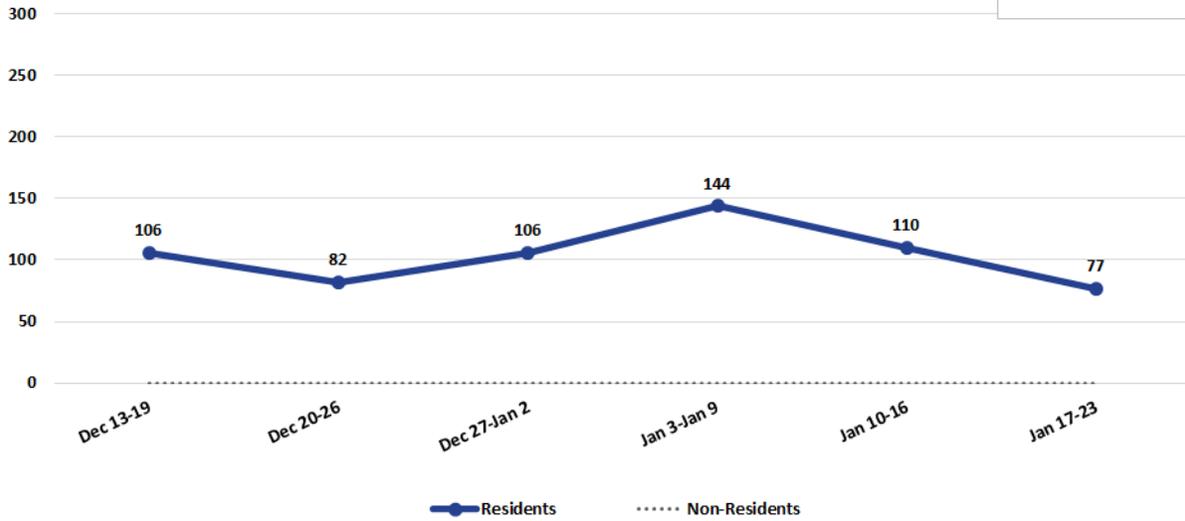
Important Disclaimer About Data

It is imperative that this report and the data contained within is understood in the appropriate context. Please, if you use this report, please be certain that the information included within is shared within the appropriate context. Doing otherwise may be damaging to the public health response efforts. There are multiple factors involved in addressing this virus, including compliance with public health control measures implemented by the local health director and referenced in NC GS 130A. These measures are imperative for limiting the spread of COVID-19. **AppHealthCare strongly advises that when data is shared for the purposes of educating the public or informing policy decisions, it should come directly from NC DHHS or AppHealthCare as it is presented with appropriate context from those directly involved in public health response.**



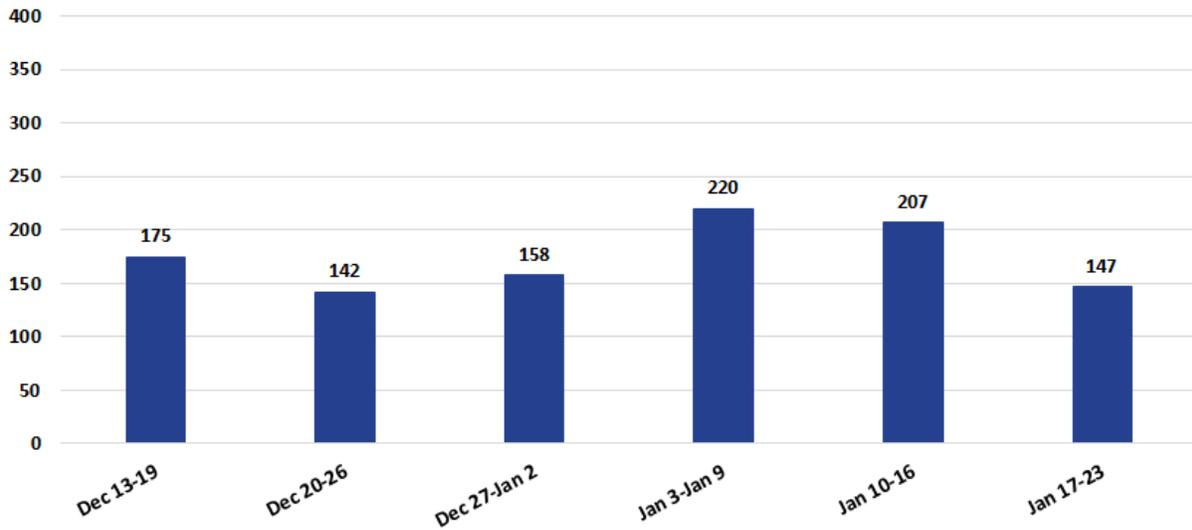
**Cumulative Case Count by Week in Ashe County
(December 13, 2020 - January 23, 2021)**

CUMULATIVE CASE COUNT
(As of 1/23/21)
1,806



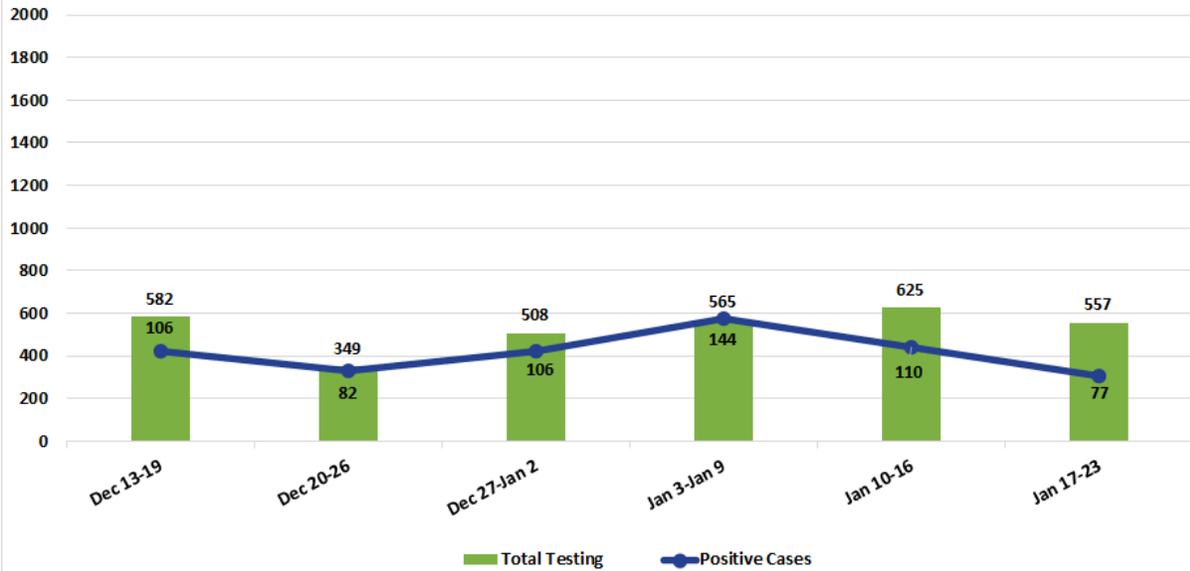
The solid navy blue line in this graph represents the number of positive COVID-19 cases among Ashe County residents by week. This graph also shows the number of non-residents that have tested positive for COVID-19 but reside in another county.

**Number of Active Positive Cases by Week in Ashe County
(December 13, 2020 - January 23, 2021)**



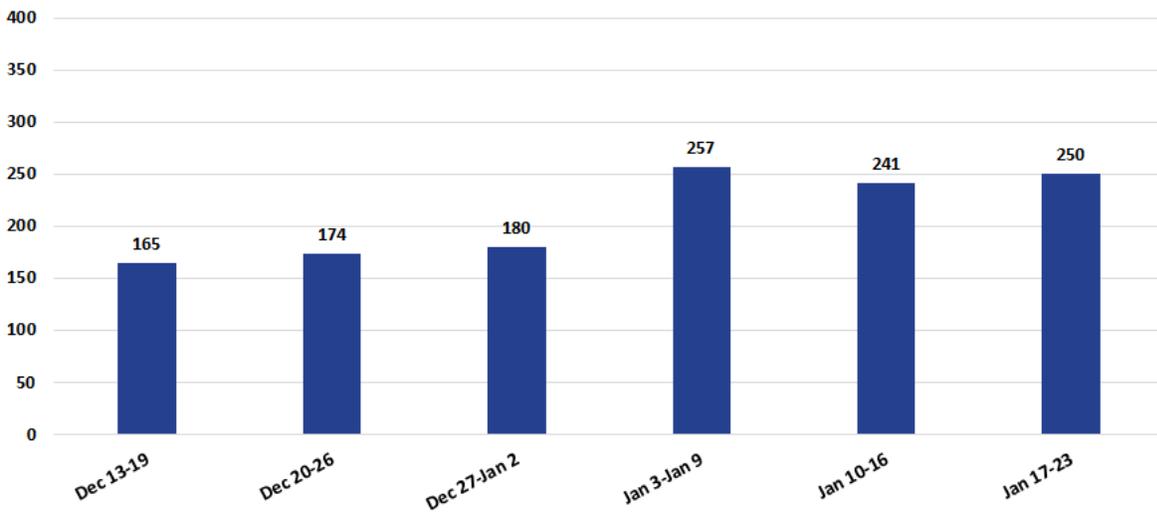
The graph represents the number of active COVID-19 positive cases by week in Ashe County. A positive COVID-19 case is considered active for ten days after the initial positive test result.

**Total Weekly Tests Reported vs. Weekly Positive Case Count in Ashe County
(December 13, 2020 - January 23, 2021)**



This graph represents the number of COVID-19 positive cases by week in Ashe County compared to the total number of reported tests that were completed by AppHealthCare and outside agencies each week in Ashe County.

**Number of People Being Actively Monitored by Week in Ashe County
(December 13, 2020 - January 23, 2021)**



This graph represents the total number of Ashe County residents that AppHealthCare staff have monitored due to being exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case. Individuals are notified and asked to quarantine and monitor for symptoms for fourteen days.

Additional data can be found on [AppHealthCare's data dashboard](#). This data is updated each day around noon.

Alleghany (336) 372-5641 | Ashe (336) 246-9449 | Watauga (828) 264-4995

AppHealthCare COVID-19 Call Center (828) 795-1970

General COVID-19 Questions: preparedness@apphealth.com

Media inquiries: media@apphealth.com

www.AppHealthCare.com and follow us on Facebook & Twitter

