



## COVID-19 Situation Update for Watauga County January 22, 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.*

**“Even though we have a vaccine for COVID-19, we urge everyone to continue practicing prevention and when you are around others you don’t live with, wear a mask, wait 6 feet and wash your hands often. We are only receiving limited supplies of vaccine right now so it will take some time before everyone is vaccinated. Prevention remains very important in our fight against this virus,”** stated Jennifer Greene, Health Director, AppHealthCare.



### Vaccinating Makes Everyone Safer - COVID-19 Vaccine Update

#### What phase are we in for Watauga 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 21, 2021)	
Total First Doses Received	Total First Doses Administered
1,900 Moderna	1,730
975 Pfizer	1,169*

\*Pfizer vaccine vials can contain extra doses so this is the reason the administered doses is higher than the received doses.

Second Doses (Data as of January 21, 2021)	
Total Second Doses Received	Total Second Doses Administered
600 Moderna	90
975 Pfizer	0

The total doses of vaccine received includes vaccine that was transferred to us from the hospital. At this time, we have been notified by NC DHHS we will not be receiving a shipment of first dose vaccine next week.

### 1,169 Vaccinated at Saturday, January 16th Mass Vaccination Event

We are pleased to say 1,169 individuals were vaccinated at the mass vaccination event this past Saturday at Watauga High School. We are very thankful and grateful to Appalachian Regional Healthcare System, Watauga County Schools, Watauga County Emergency Management, Rotary Club members, Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Boone for their partnership in this effort and the many volunteers who made this event a success.

We are planning to do another event at Watauga High School on February 6th so anyone who got their first dose on January 16th will be invited to get their second dose. The second event will also be by appointment only.

### 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](#).

## INTERESTED IN A COVID VACCINE?

Complete the interest form online at  
[www.apphealthcare.com/covid-19-vaccinations](http://www.apphealthcare.com/covid-19-vaccinations).

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

 AppHealthCare  
Caring for our Community

### 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](#).

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 10-16 (graphs below), there was a slight decrease in new cases and an increase in the number of individuals in quarantine.

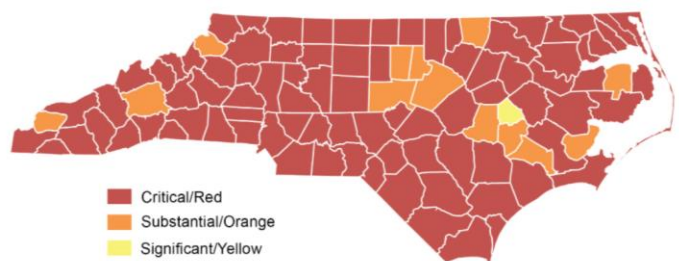
### Hospitalizations

The number of hospitalizations remains a concern and we are continuing to watch this closely. Appalachian Regional Healthcare System is in phase three of a four-phase COVID-19 surge plan. Phase three means there is an advanced patient surge with an average of 25 positive COVID-19 patients hospitalized. We want to monitor this data point very closely because it is important we have hospital capacity for those who may need hospital care for things like a heart attack, stroke, car accident, etc.

### NC DHHS County Alert System Notes Substantial Community Spread for Watauga County

In the latest update, Watauga County is **ORANGE** which notes substantial 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 [Appalachian Regional Healthcare System](#), [High Country Community Health Watauga Medical](#), [CVS Pharmacy in Boone](#), [Boone Drug](#) and other local healthcare providers may offer testing as well.

## Guidance Documents to Prevent & Slow the Spread

### Tips for Holiday & Private Social Gatherings

As we continue through the Holiday season, we encourage everyone to be mindful of the fact that this virus is still with us and there are actions we can all take to avoid and lessen our exposure and a potential spike that could overwhelm our healthcare system. If you will be hosting or attending an event, NC DHHS has compiled some [tips for gathering safely](#) and some [guidance for private social gatherings](#).

## 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](#).

<b>Active Outbreaks &amp; Clusters</b> <i>Data is current as of Thursday, January 21, 9:00am</i>				
Facility or Setting Type	Facility or Setting Name	Active Cases	Cumulative Cases	Last Positive Result
Long Term Care Facility	Glenbridge Health & Rehab	2 staff	8 staff 2 residents 1 death	01/14/2021
Long Term Care Facility	Foley Center	3 staff 8 residents	21 staff 31 residents	01/20/2021
Childcare Facility	Greenway Baptist Child Development Center	6 children 4 staff	7 children 9 staff	1/20/2021

#### Mitigation and Response Efforts

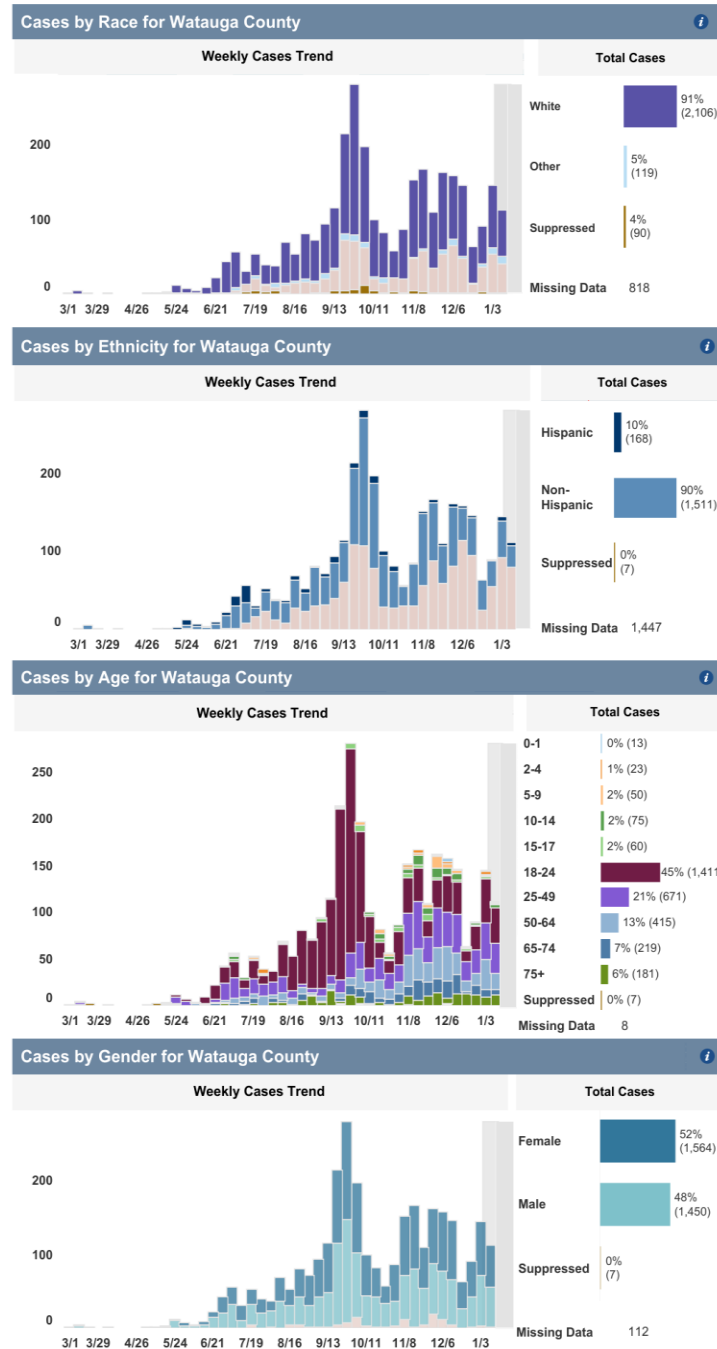
- Ongoing testing continues to monitor the health of residents in skilled nursing facilities
- Educational outreach on COVID-19 prevention with these facilities
- Positive cases are separated from others to allow for safe isolation
- Ongoing daily health monitoring is occurring at the facilities
- Monitoring of positive cases continues with public health staff
- App State and AppHealthCare review cases daily to ensure that staff and students get the support they need to safely isolate or quarantine and to support contact tracing efforts by public health staff
- Ongoing messaging continues from App State to campus about prevention measures and enforcement

App State is providing COVID-19 testing at no cost to students, faculty and staff each Wednesday and Saturday from noon - 5 p.m. App State Student Health Service also continues providing testing for students each weekday. Entry testing, as well as periodic testing throughout the semester, is required for residence hall students, student athletes and other students as determined necessary during the Spring 2021 semester. App State is in the process of distributing five new washable, re-usable face coverings for all students, faculty and staff. The university has an application pending with the North

Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to be a COVID-19 vaccination distribution center for community members as well as students, faculty and staff. [App State has a dedicated COVID-19 website](#) with guidance, testing schedule information, regular updates and data for the Appalachian community.

## Demographic Data from NC DHHS as of January 19th

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



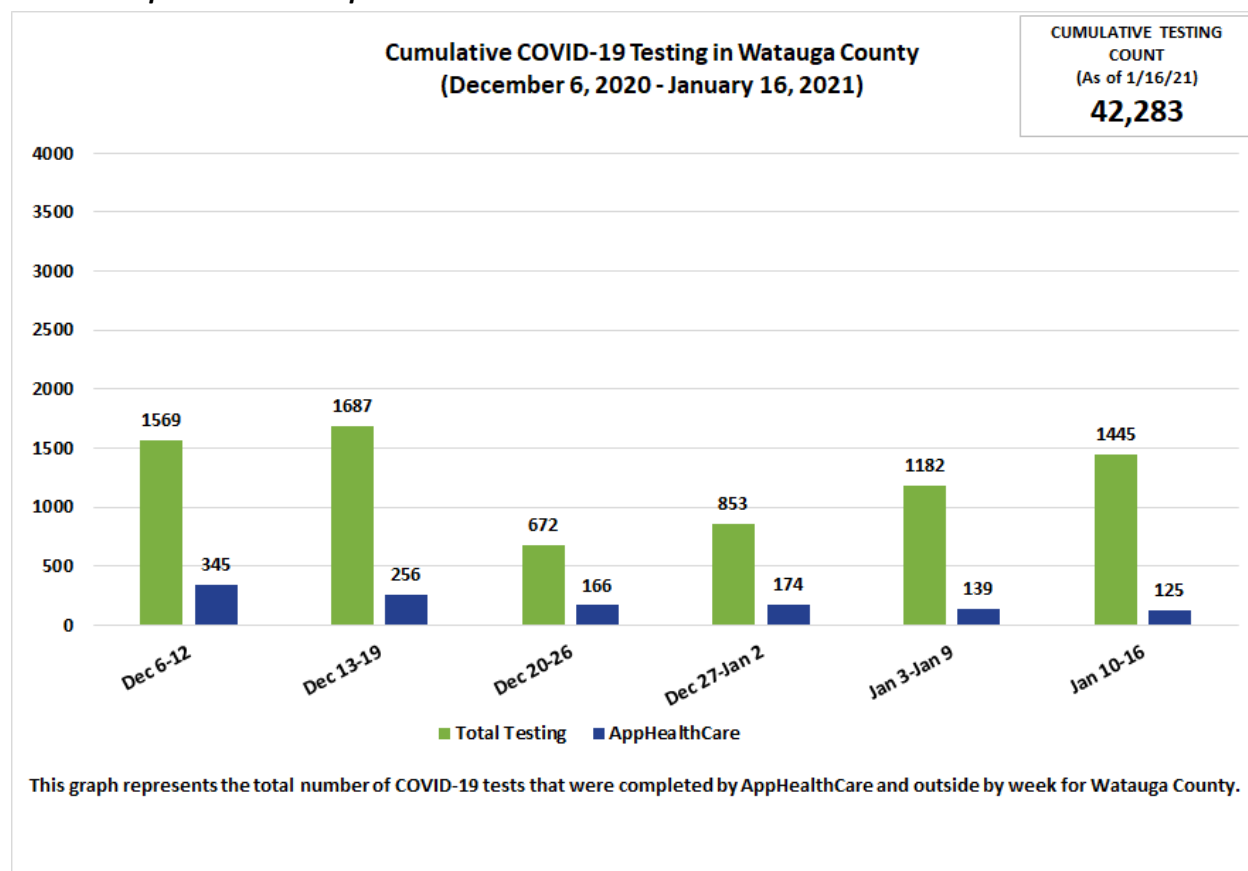
January 19, 2021

## Data for Watauga 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.*

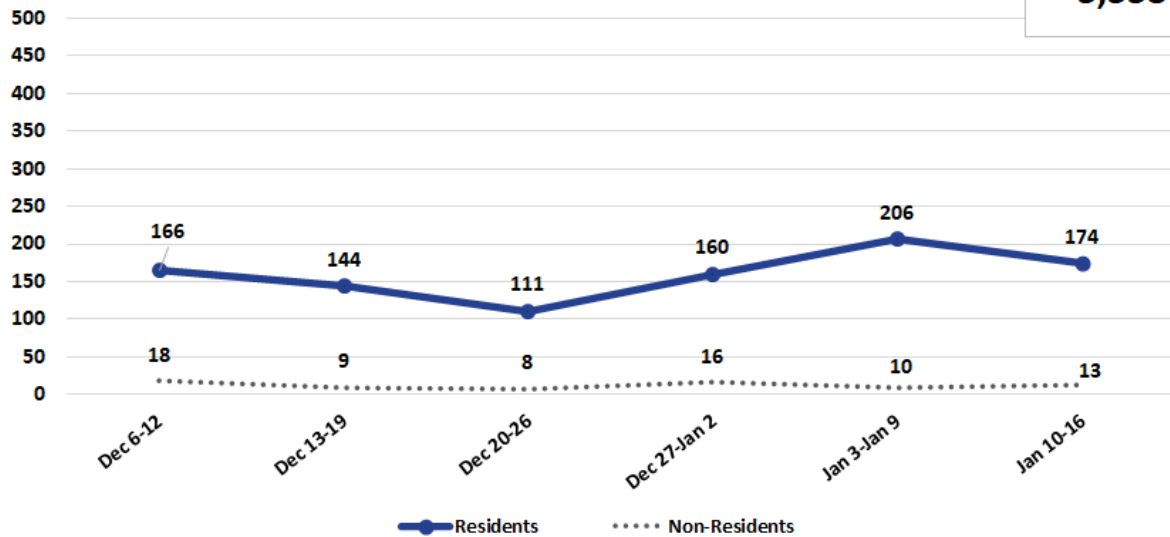
### Important Disclaimer About Data

*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.***



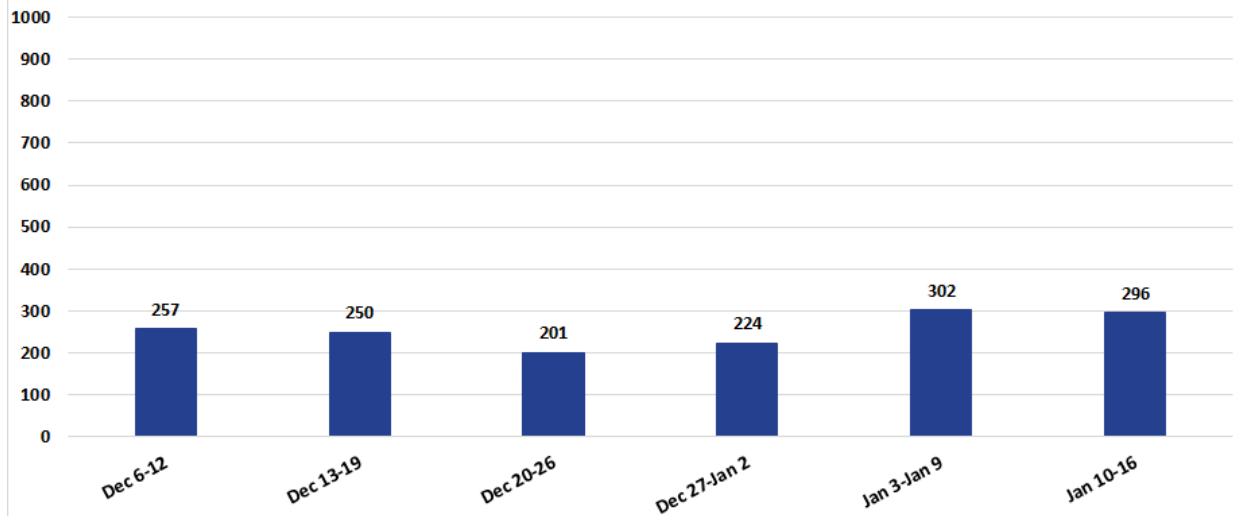
**Cumulative Case Count by Week in Watauga County  
(December 6, 2020 - January 16, 2021)**

CUMULATIVE CASE  
COUNT  
(As of 1/16/21)  
**3,338**



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

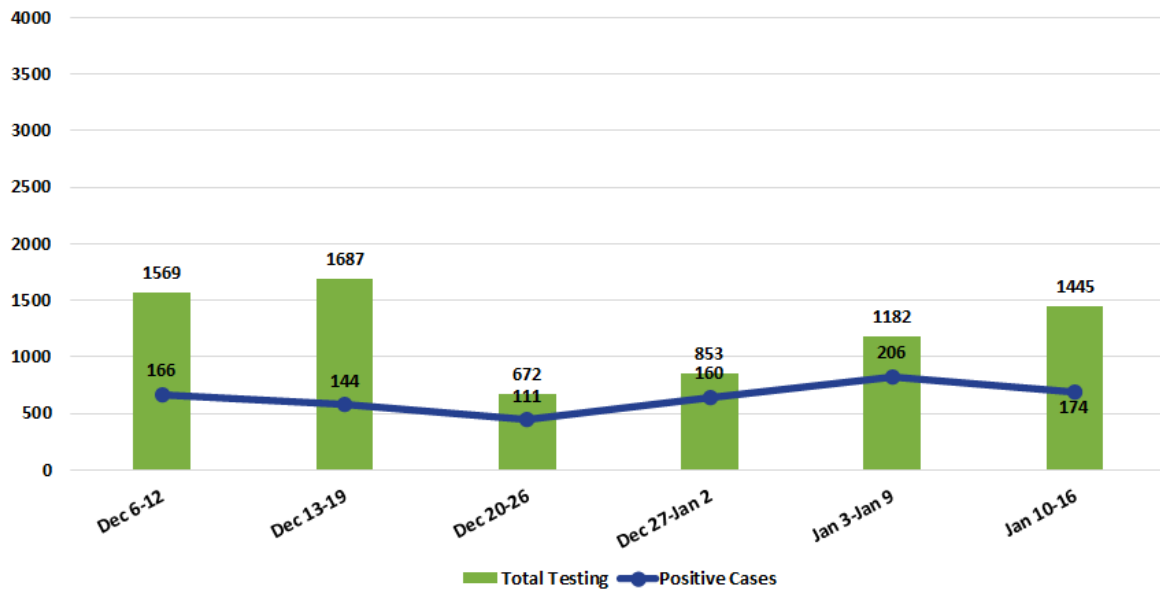
**Number of Active Positive Cases by Week in Watauga County  
(December 6, 2020 - January 16, 2021)**



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

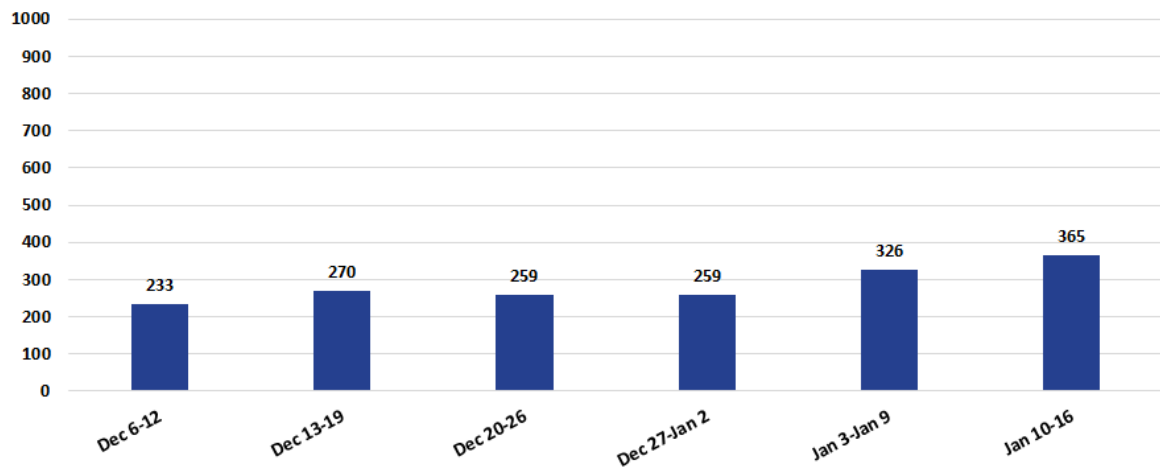


**Total Weekly Tests Reported vs. Weekly Positive Case Count in Watauga County  
(December 6, 2020 - January 16, 2021)**



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

**Number of People Being Actively Monitored by Week in Watauga County  
(December 6, 2020 - January 16, 2021)**



This graph represents the total number of Watauga 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.

App State cumulative testing as of week ending January 17, 2021. These totals include tests performed at Student Health Service and from pop-up test events contracted with Mako Medical.

	On-Campus Tests	Positive Tests	% Positive Cases
	33,384	937	2.8%
Date - (Week ending)	On-Campus Tests	Positive Tests	% Positive Cases
Jan 17, 2021	1,228	27	2.2%
Jan 10, 2021	863	26	3.0%
Dec 20, 2020	837	9	1.1%
Dec 13, 2020	1,028	27	2.6%
Dec 6, 2020	1,074	18	1.7%
Nov 29, 2020	1,483	8	0.5%
Nov 22, 2020	3,717	41	1.1%
Nov 15, 2020	1,869	42	2.2%

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

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**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](mailto:preparedness@apphealth.com)**

**Media inquiries: [media@apphealth.com](mailto:media@apphealth.com)**

**[www.AppHealthCare.com](http://www.AppHealthCare.com) and follow us on Facebook & Twitter**

