



## COVID-19 Situation Update for Ashe County

March 5, 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.*

**“With three approved COVID-19 vaccines now available, it is important to note that each vaccine is safe and effective and has been studied in clinical trials. We have full confidence in these vaccines and hope people will take the vaccine that is offered to them when it’s their turn. The news of a third vaccine provides more hope, and we are very glad to have more vaccines available to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities,”** stated Jennifer Greene, Health Director, AppHealthCare.



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

Our vaccine allocation for the week of March 8th will include 500 first doses and 200 second doses.

#### Who is eligible for vaccines?

The active groups for vaccination are 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 (Group 1), anyone 65 years or older, regardless of health status or living situation (Group 2) and frontline essential workers (Group 3).



#### How is equity being addressed in Ashe County?

Equity is an important and significant factor to address during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as it pertains to the COVID-19 vaccine. In Ashe County, those who need help with transportation can use the [Ashe County Transportation Authority](#) to get to and from vaccination sites. Transportation is free of charge for residents. For those who are in need of interpreters, we have interpreters available to help with your vaccine appointment. Also, some people are unable to leave their homes due to lack of accessibility, location, disability, etc. and we are able to offer vaccinations at someone’s home by scheduled appointments.

### How is Ashe County providing assistance with transportation for COVID-19 appointments?

[Ashe County Transportation Authority](#) is now providing complementary services to COVID-19 vaccination sites. This service is provided Monday through Friday for any Ashe County resident. However, appointments must be made by 2:00 PM the day before the trip. Call 336-846-2000 to schedule an appointment. Masks are required. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available by request.



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## COVID-19 Vaccine Data

### How many doses of vaccine do we have?

First Doses (Data as of March 5, 2021)		
Week of March 1st Allocation	Total First Doses Received	Total First Doses Administered
1,200	4,800	4,040

Second Doses (Data as of March 5, 2021)		
Week of March 1st Allocation	Total Second Doses Received	Total Second Doses Administered
200	2,210	2,080

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

### People Eligible for Vaccine

This is an approximate number of those who are eligible to receive vaccines in Group 1, 2 and 3. These are individuals who remain on our interest form list and who we have not yet reached out to to schedule an appointment. For Group 3, we are using both our interest form list and coordinating with employers directly to schedule appointments, therefore this number does not represent all frontline workers eligible for vaccines in each county.

People Eligible for Vaccine (Data as of March 5, 2021)	
Ashe	83

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 February 21-27 (graphs below), there were decreases in new cases and the number of individuals in quarantine.

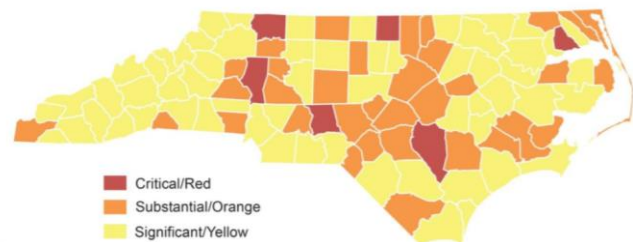
### Statement from Ashe Memorial Hospital

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 Significant Community Spread for Ashe County

In the latest update, Ashe County is **YELLOW** 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 February 14 through February 27, 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 (regardless of whether you have symptoms or not), 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. Next week we will not offer testing in order to prioritize vaccine deployment.** 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.

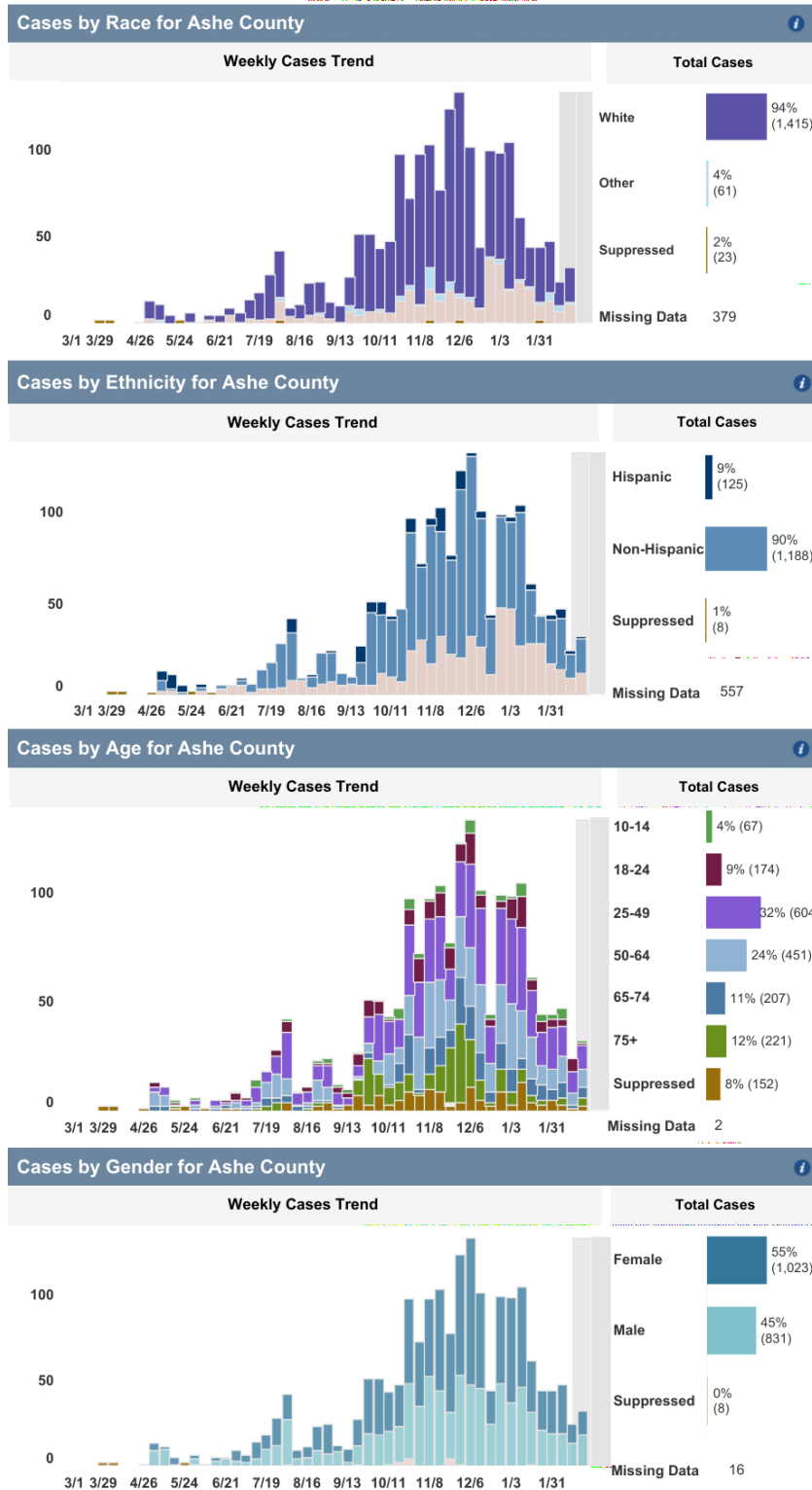
An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases. A cluster is defined as a minimum of five cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period and plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases. An outbreak or cluster is considered over if 28 days have passed 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](#).

<b>Active Outbreaks &amp; Clusters</b> <i>Data is current as of Thursday, March 4, 9:00am</i>				
<b>Facility or Setting Type</b>	<b>Facility or Setting Name</b>	<b>Active Cases</b>	<b>Cumulative Cases</b>	<b>Last Positive Result</b>
Long Term Care Facility	Margate Health & Rehab	0	59 staff 89 residents 18 deaths	02/08/2021

#### **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

## Demographic Data from NC DHHS as of March 1st



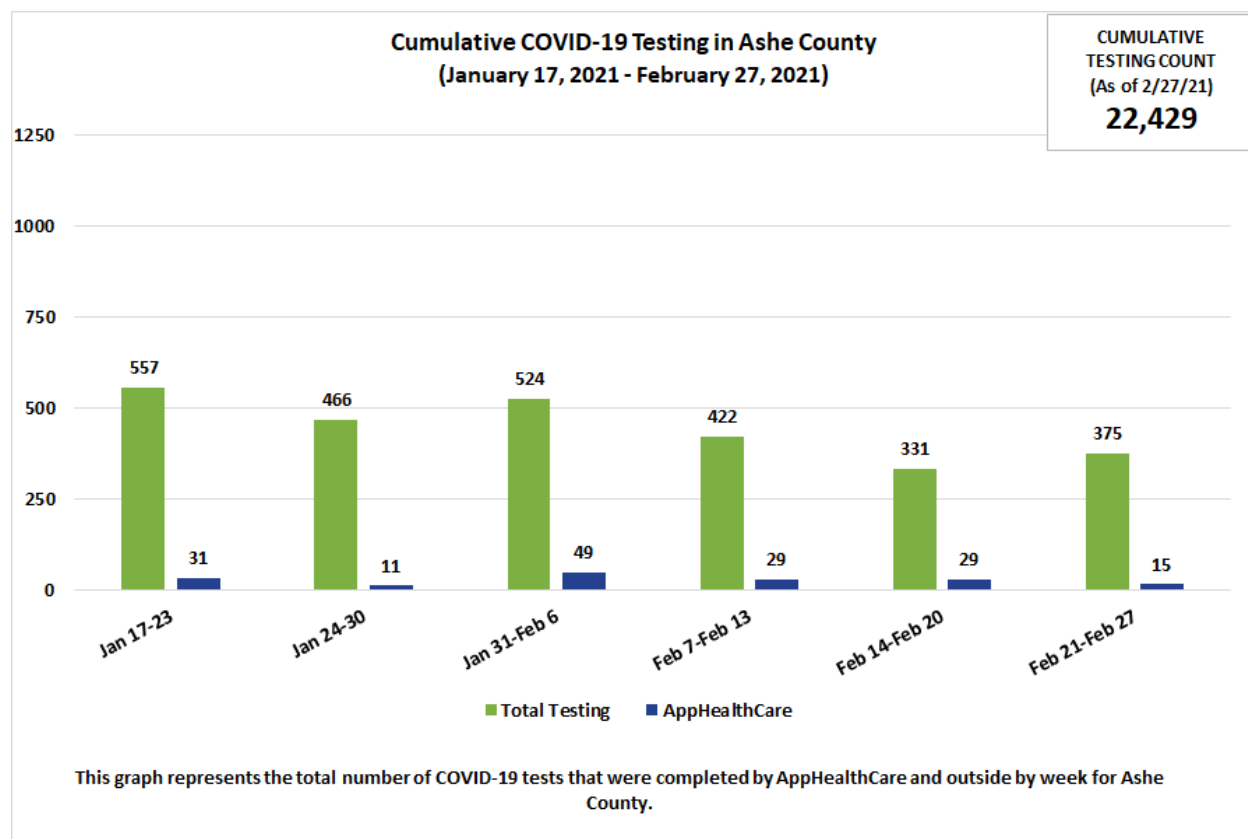
March 1, 2021

## 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.

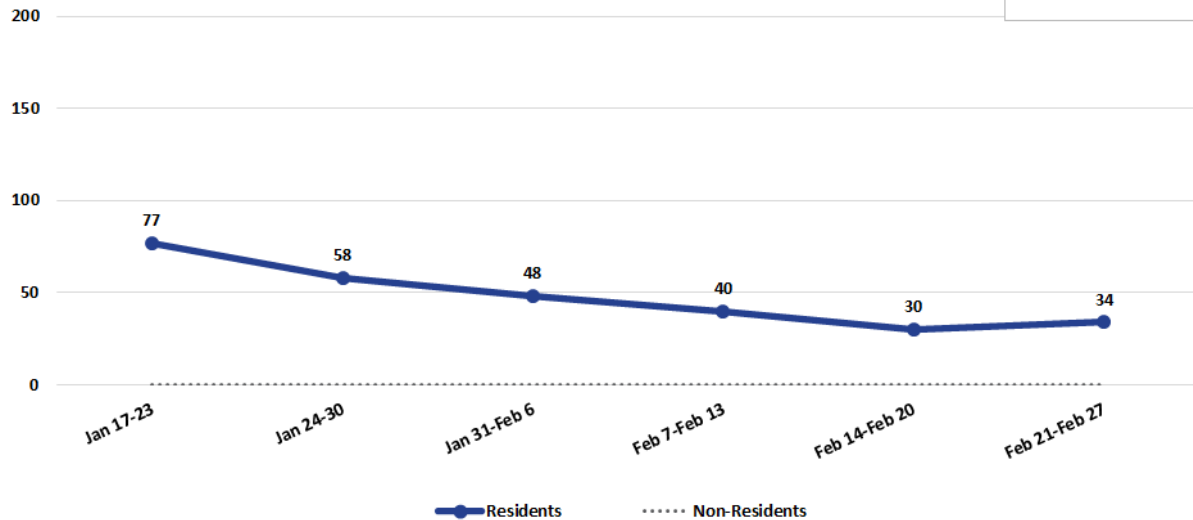
### Important Disclaimer About Data

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.**



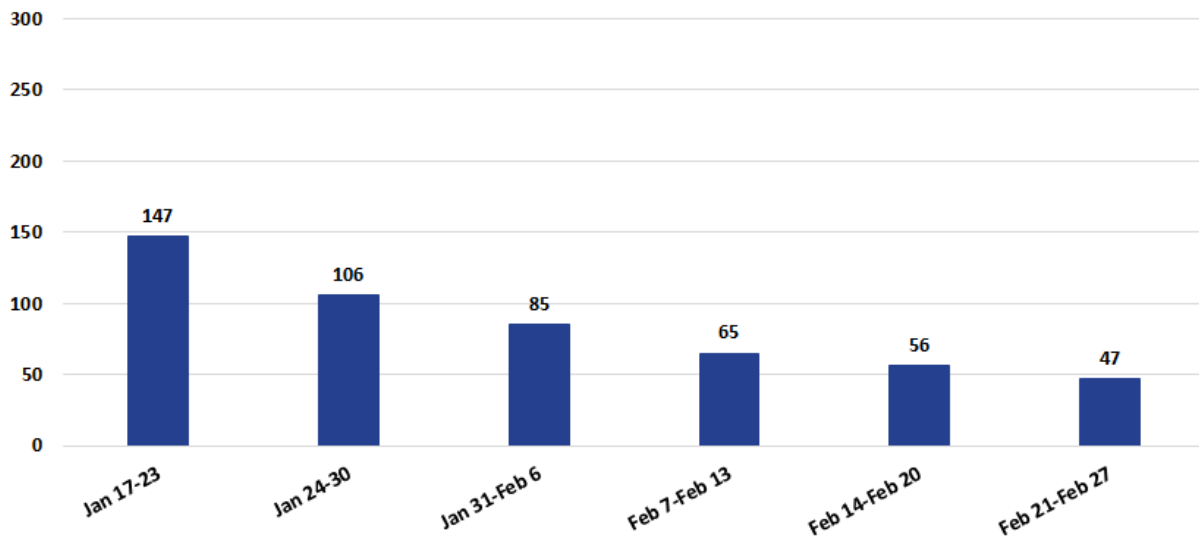
**Cumulative Case Count by Week in Ashe County  
(January 17, 2021 - February 27, 2021)**

CUMULATIVE CASE COUNT  
(As of 2/27/21)  
**2,016**



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.

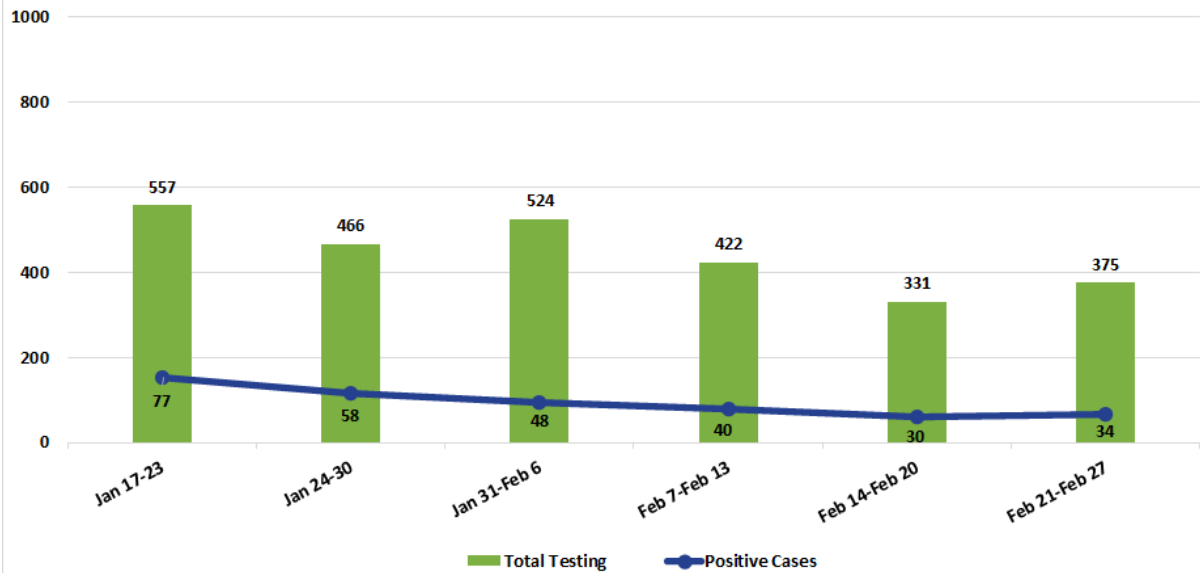
**Number of Active Positive Cases by Week in Ashe County  
(January 17, 2021 - February 27, 2021)**



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.

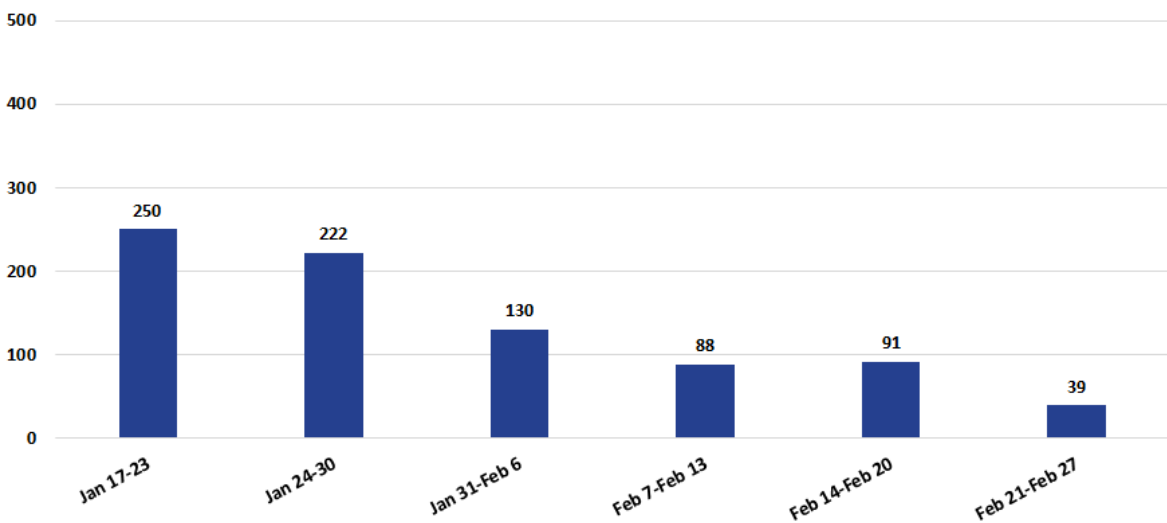


**Total Weekly Tests Reported vs. Weekly Positive Case Count in Ashe County  
(January 17, 2021 - February 27, 2021)**



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  
(January 17, 2021 - February 27, 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.

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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**

