



COVID-19 Situation Update for Watauga County

May 28, 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.

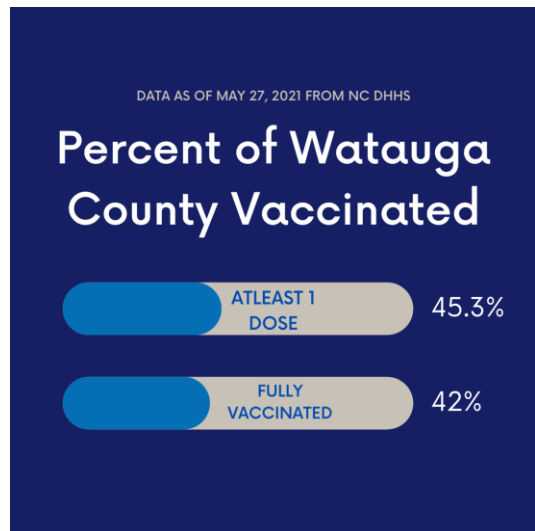
COVID-19 Vaccine Update



Vaccinating makes everyone safer. If you are interested in getting your vaccine, there is a spot for you. Visit our website to schedule an appointment or call us at (828) 795-1970. Show your love by getting a vaccine to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Who is eligible for vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccine appointments are open for those who want a vaccine within the age requirements. The Pfizer vaccine is now approved for people ages 12 and older and all other vaccines are approved for 18 and older. Vaccine appointments will be added to our website as they are available based on vaccine supply so continue to check back regularly for additional appointments to be added. Currently, our vaccine appointments are for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. At this time, we do not get regular shipments of Pfizer and therefore do not have appointments available for Pfizer. However, Boone Drugs does receive a regular shipment of Pfizer and are open for appointments. For more information about a first dose appointment visit, boonedrug.com/covid-vaccine.



Are you interested in hosting a pop-up vaccination event?

A pop-up vaccination clinic is another way to make vaccines available to our community. Pop-up events are intended to provide more access to vaccines and reduce transportation, technology and geographic barriers. Pop-up events can be set up at businesses, community agencies, existing events and more! If you are interested in hosting an event or for us to come to your business/event, please complete the interest

form ([English form](#) and [Spanish form](#)) and a member of our vaccination team will contact you.

The vaccine is free for everyone, regardless of your immigration status. You do not need to show proof of insurance, social security number or an ID if you do not have it.

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 May 16-22 (graphs below), cases remain steady.

Hospitalizations

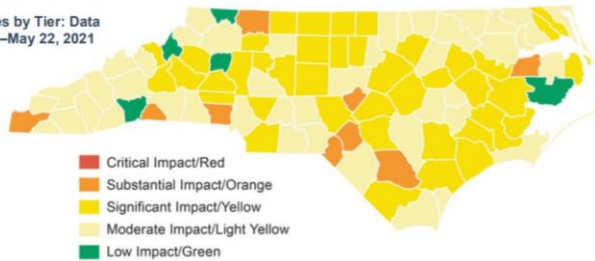
The number of COVID hospitalizations remained steady, in single digits, this week. We continue to watch this closely to ensure capacity for those who may need hospital care for things like a heart attack, stroke, car accident, etc.

NC DHHS County Alert System Notes

Moderate Impact for Watauga County

In the latest update, Watauga County is **LIGHT YELLOW** which notes moderate impact. 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 May 9–May 22, 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.

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. We offer testing on Monday and Thursday each week unless otherwise noted. 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.

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 Monday through Friday by noon.

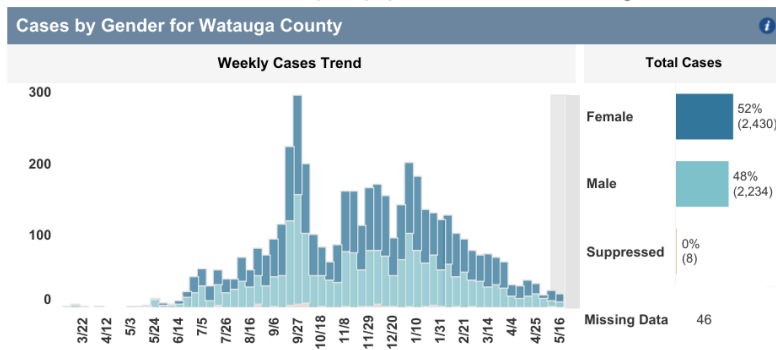
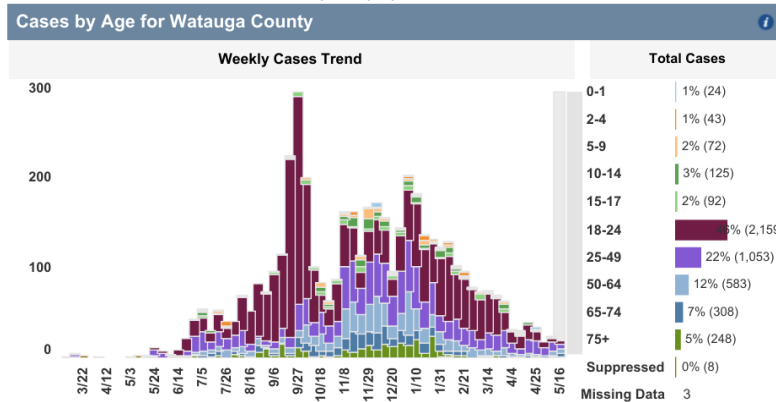
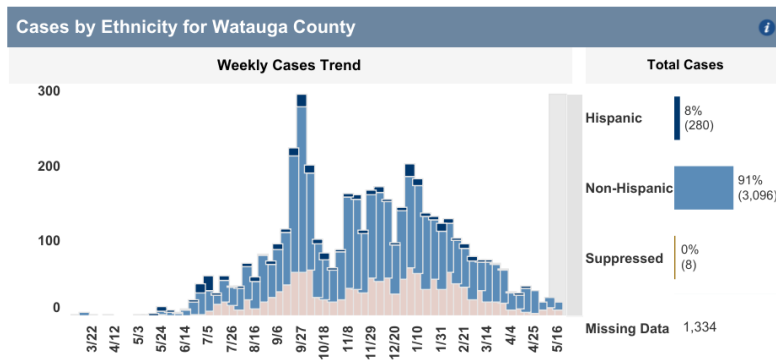
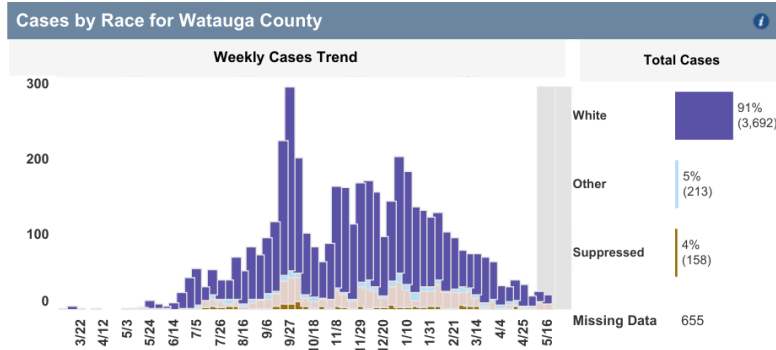
An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases. A cluster is defined as a minimum of five cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period and plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases. An outbreak or cluster is considered over if 28 days have passed 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, May 27th</i>				
Facility or Setting Type	Facility or Setting Name	Active Cases	Cumulative Cases	Last Positive Result
Correctional Facility	Watauga County Detention Center	0	38	05/10/2021
Homeless Shelter	Hospitality House	3	18	5/25/2021

App State ended the 2020-21 academic year having conducted 57,370 COVID-19 tests on campus, having administered 4,340 COVID-19 vaccines to faculty, staff, students and the general public, and having only two active COVID-19 cases — the lowest since June 2020. The overall positivity rate for 2021 was 1.8%. App State is preparing for the full return of students, faculty and staff to campus for the fall

2021 semester, and continues to strongly encourage COVID-19 vaccination. App State’s dedicated COVID-19 website continues to provide guidance, vaccine information, and regular updates for the App State community.

Demographic Data from NC DHHS as of May 24th

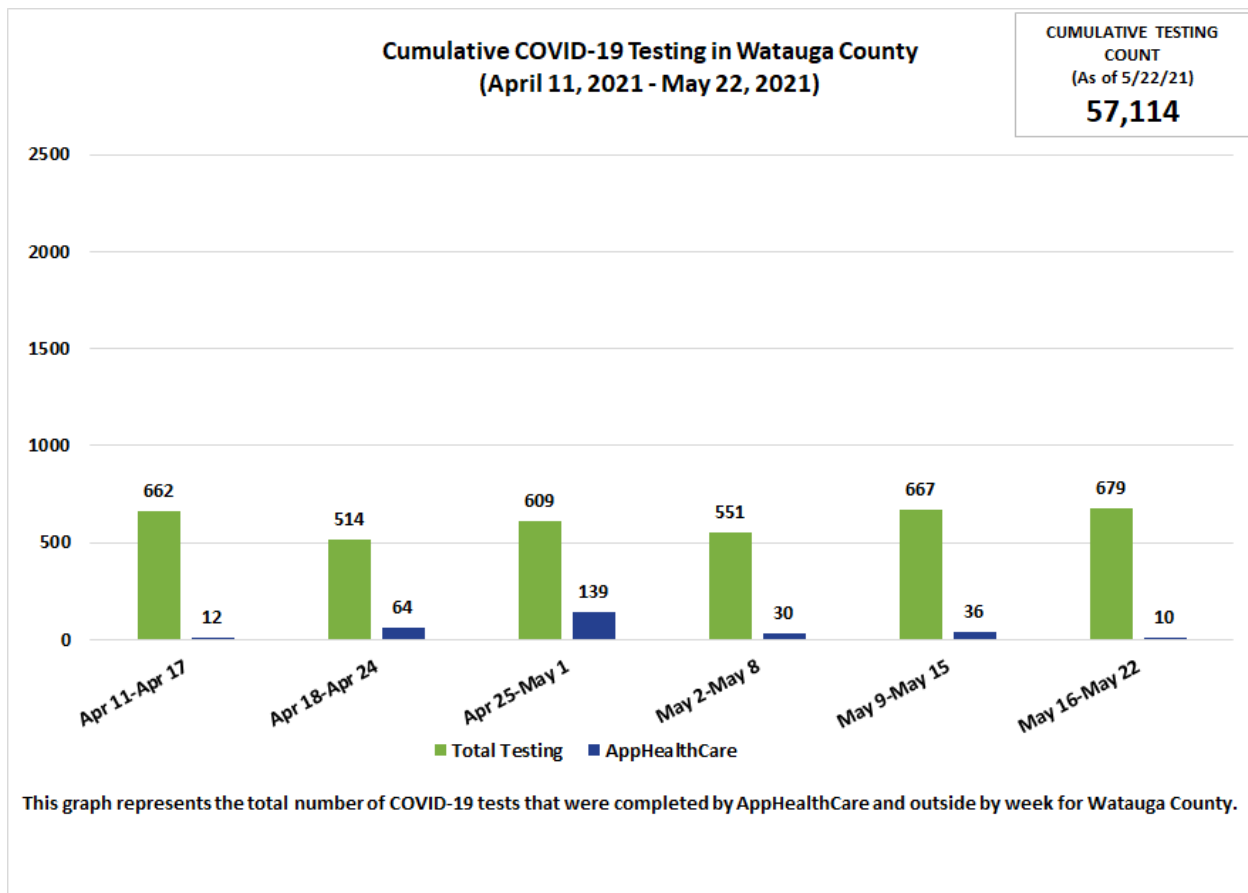


Data for Watauga County

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

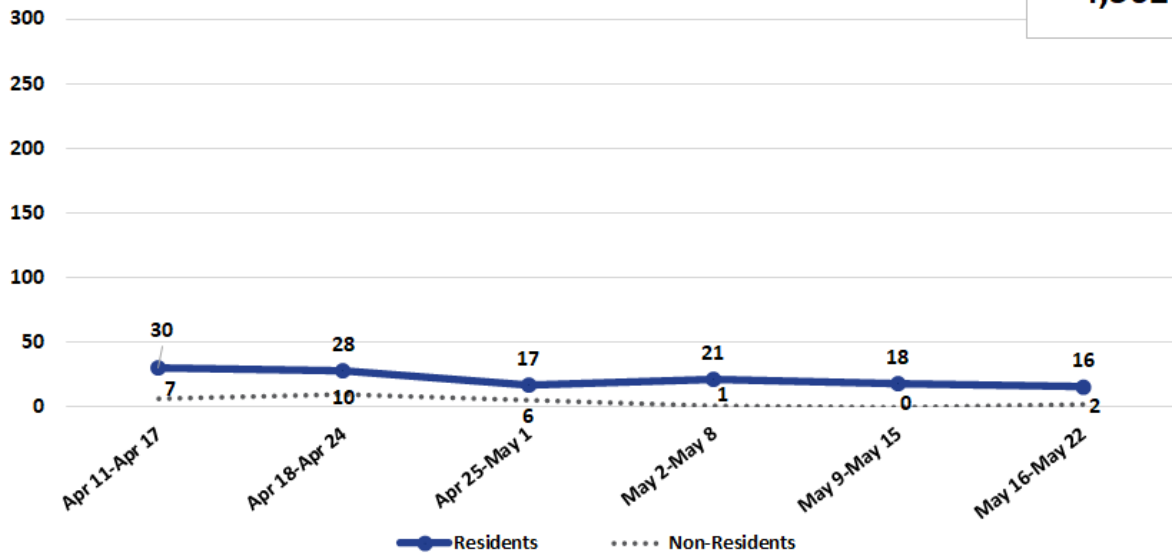
It is imperative that this report and the data contained within is understood in the appropriate context. Please, if you use this report, please be certain that the information included within is shared within the appropriate context. Doing otherwise may be damaging to the public health response efforts. 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 (April 11, 2021 - May 22, 2021)

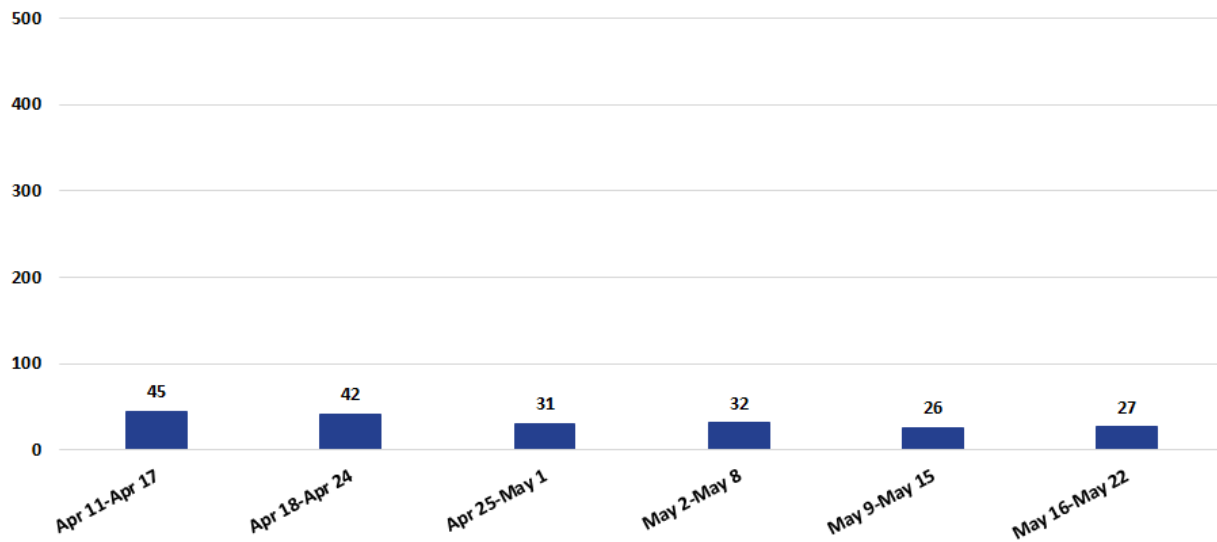
CUMULATIVE CASE
COUNT
(As of 5/22/21)

4,562



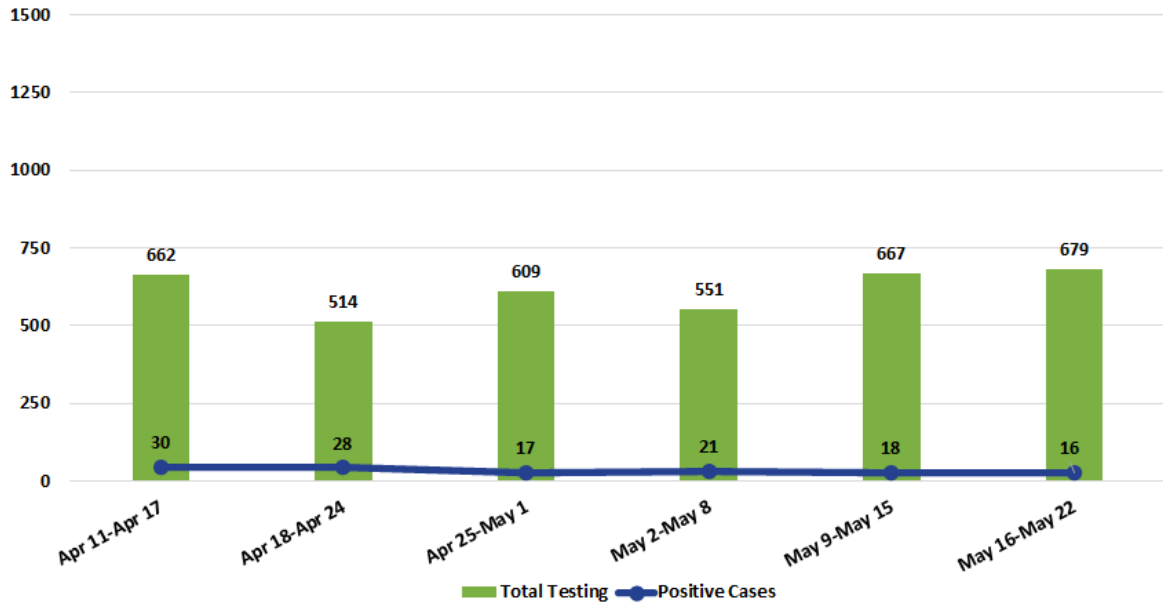
The solid navy blue line in this graph represents the number of positive COVID-19 cases among Watauga County residents by week. This graph also shows the number of non-residents that have tested positive for COVID-19 but reside outside Watauga County.

Number of Active Positive Cases by Week in Watauga County (April 11, 2021 - May 22, 2021)



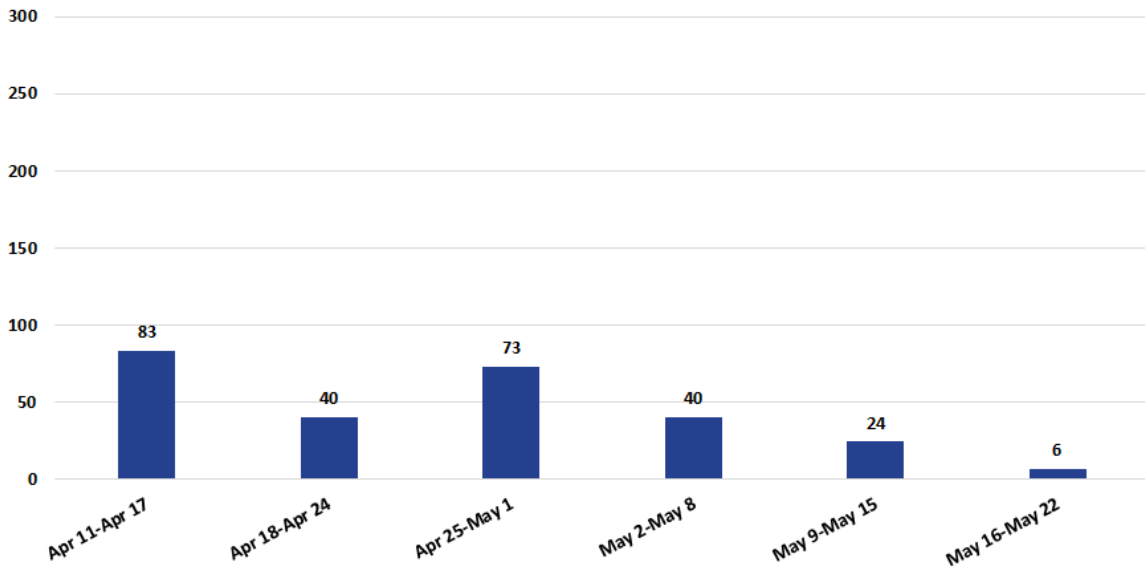
This graph represents the number of active COVID-19 positive cases by week in Watauga County. A positive COVID-19 case is considered active for a total of ten days after the initial positive test result.

**Total Weekly Tests Reported vs. Weekly Positive Case Count in Watauga County
(April 11, 2021 - May 22, 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
(April 11, 2021 - May 22, 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.

Additional data can be found on [AppHealthCare's data dashboard](#). This data is updated Monday through Friday by 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

