



COVID-19 Situation Update for Watauga County

June 18, 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. Show your love by getting a vaccine to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Summer Cash and Cash 4 College Drawings

Big news! The Summer Cash and Cash 4 College drawings are a part of North Carolina's effort to bring a safer summer back with tested, safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccinated NC residents 18+ can win \$1 million and those 12-17 can win \$125,000 for post-secondary education. It's easy to enter - get your vaccine! Learn more at SummerVaxCash.com.

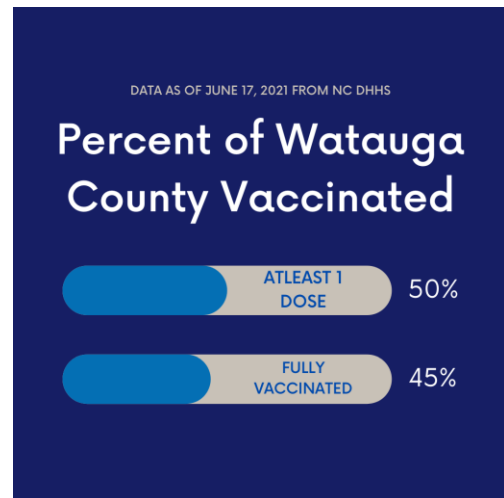
YOUR SHOT 
AT \$1 MILLION
SUMMER CASH DRAWING

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 approved for people ages 12 and older and all other vaccines are approved for 18 and older.

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](#).



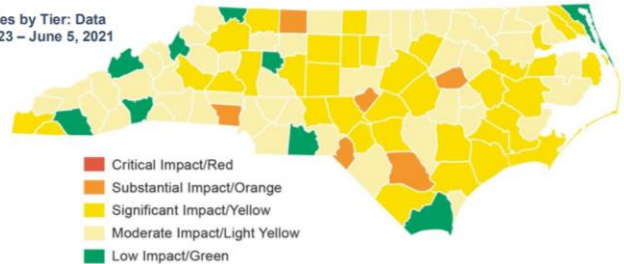
COVID-19 Cases

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 23 – June 5, 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](#).

Free COVID-19 Testing at AppHealthCare. We offer testing on Monday and Thursday each week unless otherwise noted.

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

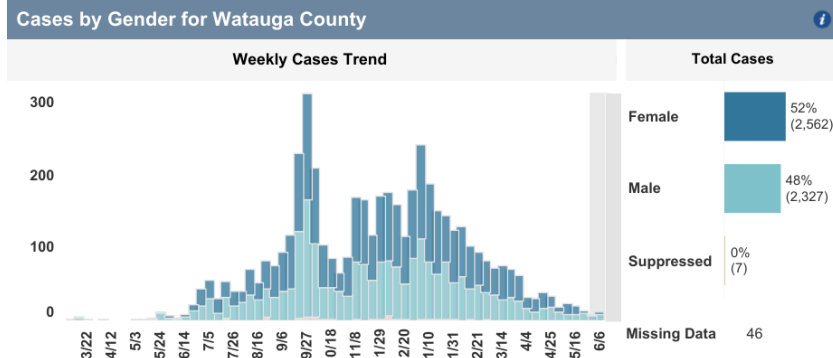
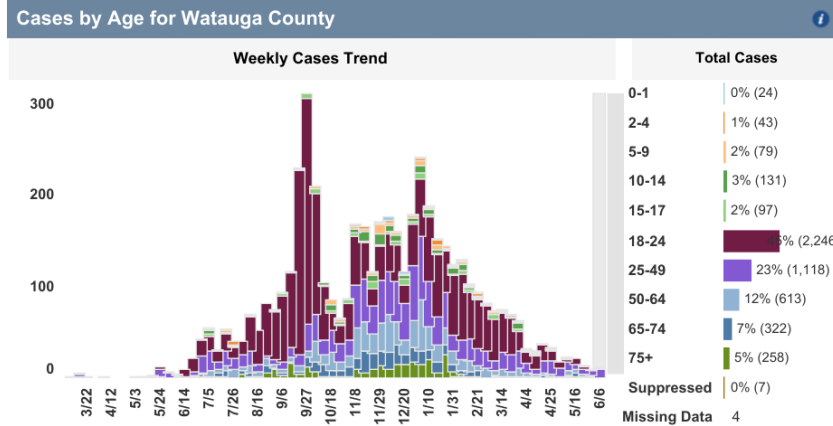
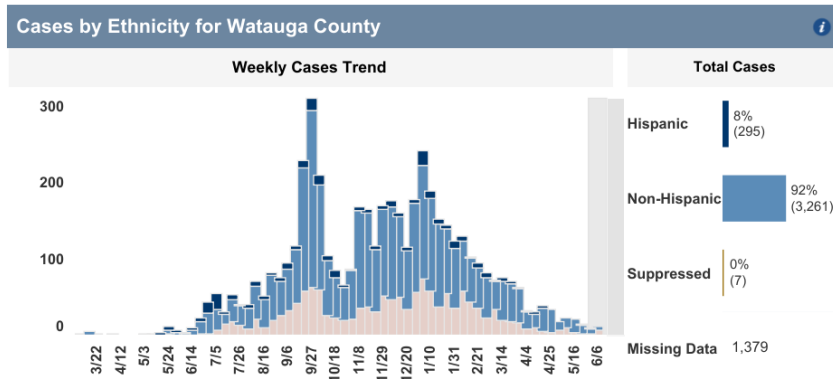
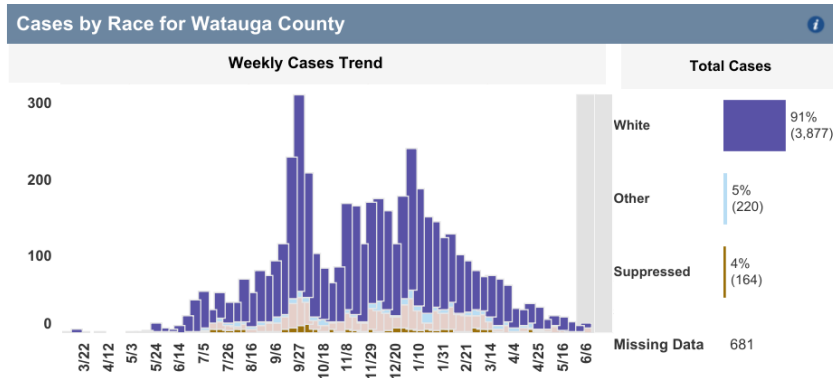
included in this report are subject to change. For a current case count, visit the [AppHealthCare data dashboard](#), which is updated Monday through Friday by noon.

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, June 17th</i>				
Facility or Setting Type	Facility or Setting Name	Active Cases	Cumulative Cases	Last Positive Result
Homeless Shelter	Hospitality House	0	19	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, and an overall positivity rate for 2021 of 1.8%. As of June 18, 2021, there are no active cases in App State students, faculty or staff. The university 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 June 14th



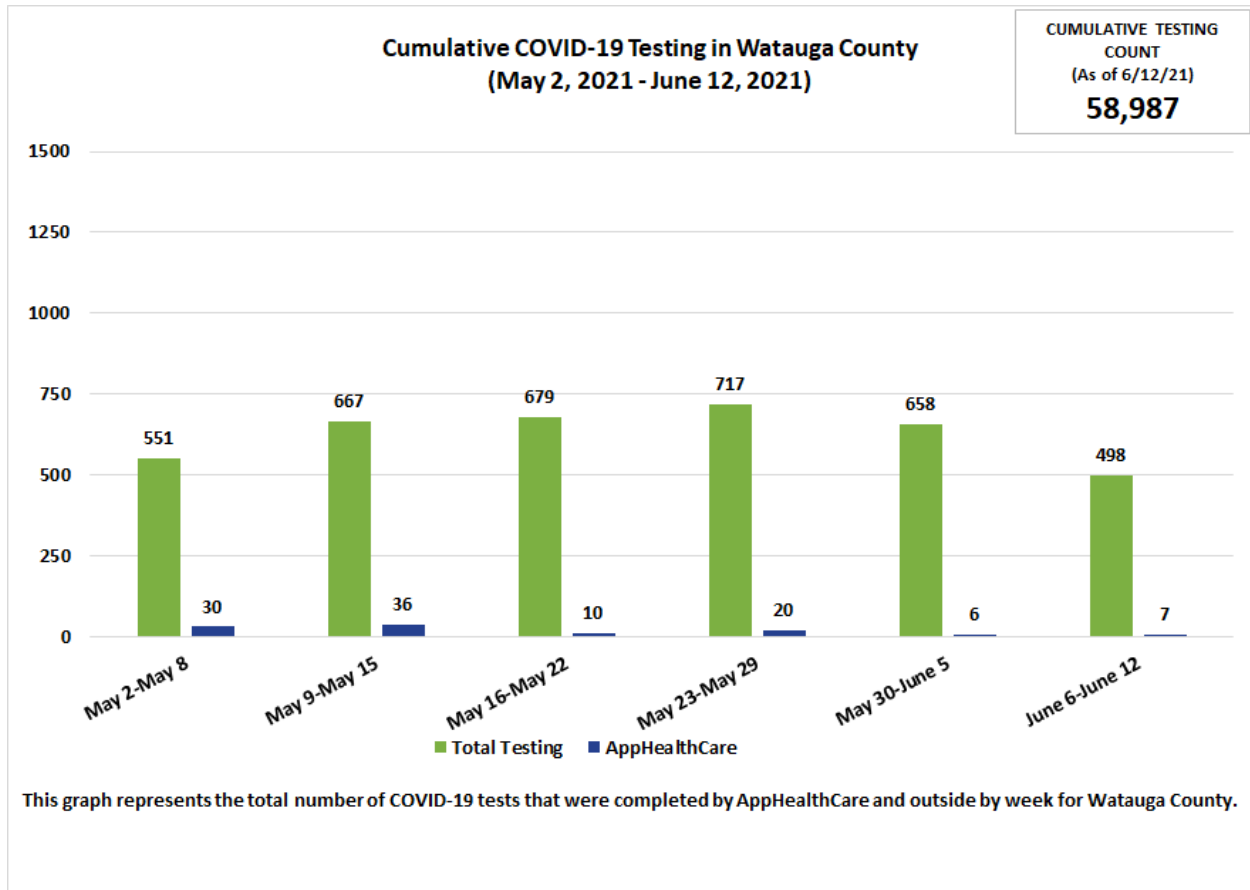
June 14, 2021

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.

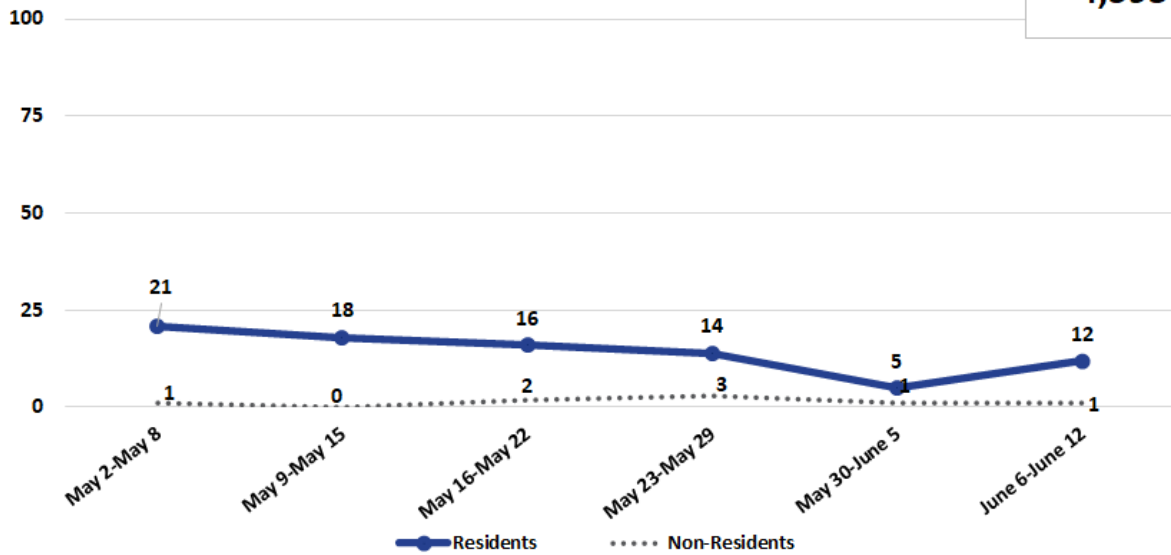
Important Disclaimer About Data

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.**



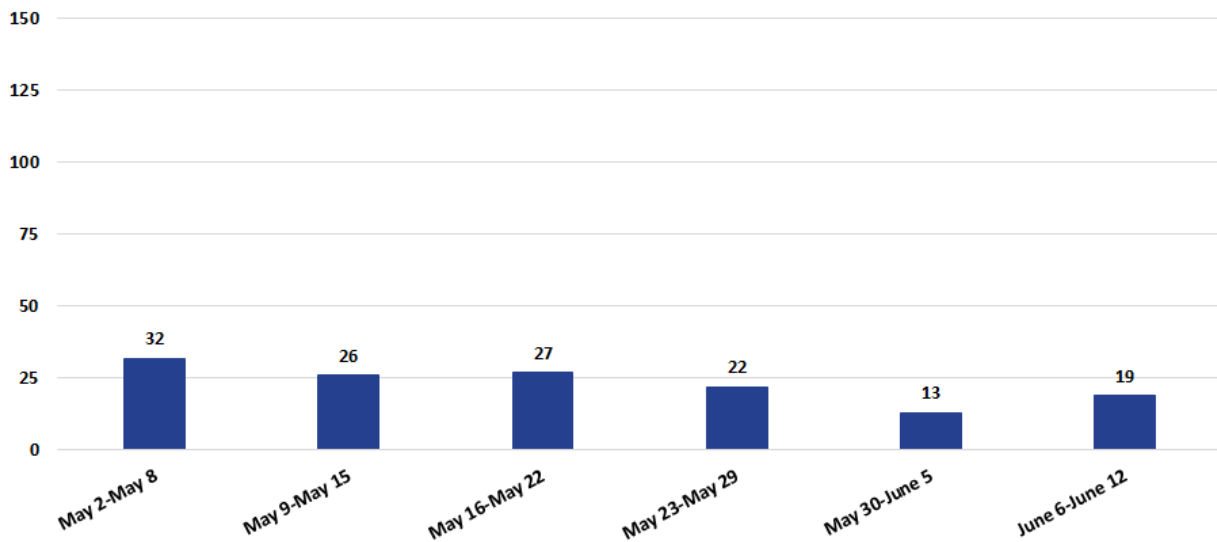
Cumulative Case Count by Week in Watauga County (May 2, 2021 - June 12, 2021)

CUMULATIVE CASE
COUNT
(As of 6/12/21)
4,593



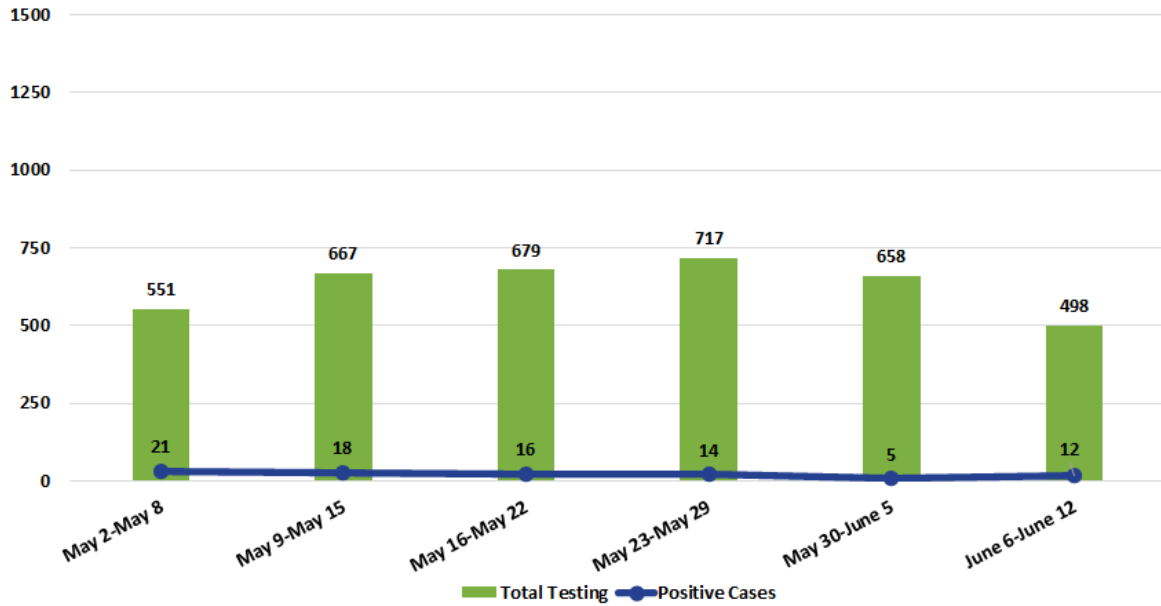
The solid navy blue line in this graph represents the number of positive COVID-19 cases among Watauga County residents by week. This graph also shows the number of non-residents that have tested positive for COVID-19 but reside outside Watauga County.

Number of Active Positive Cases by Week in Watauga County (May 2, 2021 - June 12, 2021)



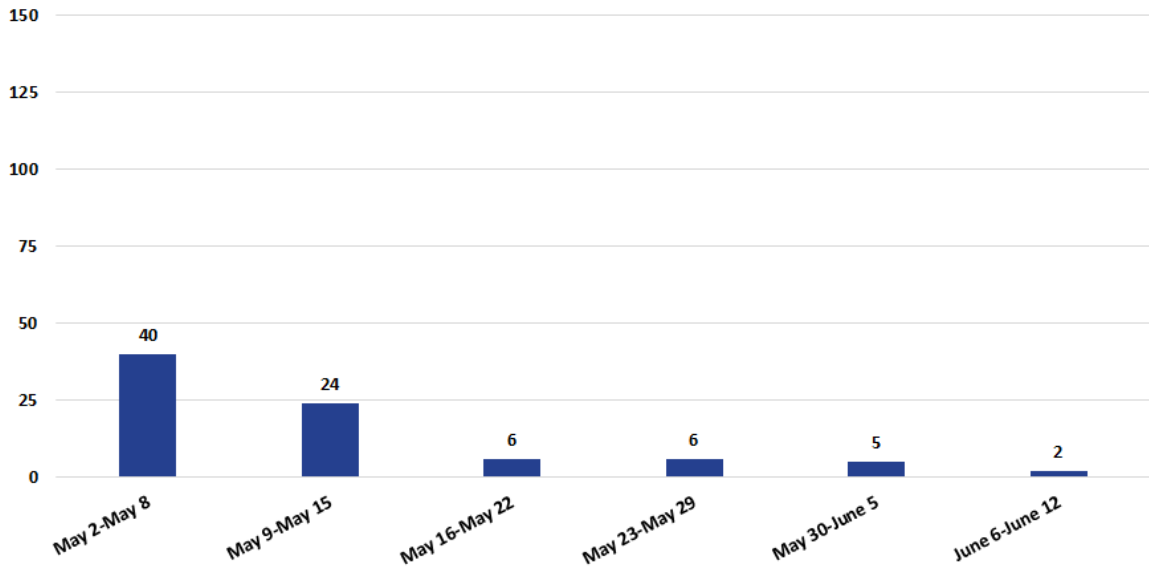
This graph represents the number of active COVID-19 positive cases by week in Watauga County. A positive COVID-19 case is considered active for a total of ten days after the initial positive test result.

**Total Weekly Tests Reported vs. Weekly Positive Case Count in Watauga County
(May 2, 2021 - June 12, 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
(May 2, 2021 - June 12, 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

