

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in special session on January 26, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director; Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

- **One Buncombe Fund Public Hearing**

Tim Love, Business Officer and Matt Raker, Mountain BizWorks Executive Director, explained that the One Buncombe, COVID-19 Rapid Relief Fund was created in April 2020 and the Community banded together to raise nearly \$1.4M for individuals and small businesses. The pandemic has continued to stress the Community and the need to assist individuals and small businesses is critical. Approving the request will authorize \$150,000 of economic development appropriation and reinvestment of any funds received from One Buncombe repayments back into the One Buncombe program.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:18 p.m.

Don Yelton questioned the program's administration and amount money, and expressed his displeasure for the public comment process due to the meeting being closed to the public.

The hearing was closed at 5:20 p.m.

Commissioner Pressley moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

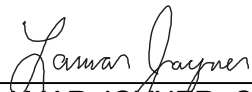
Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **COVID-19 Update Presentation with FAQs**

Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director; and Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccine administration, and metric data (2 categories coded red). Total vaccine administered to date is 7,500 (1st dose = 7,000 & 2nd dose = 500). A second vaccination site will open up at A.C. Reynolds High School.

Zo Mpofu, HHS, presented information on addressing equity within the vaccine program and the use of communications and outreach to assist with some of the disparities.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 1/26/2021

Public Hearings

Department: County Manager's Office

Presenter(s): Timothy Love, Matt Raker

Contact(s): Timothy Love, Rachael Nygaard

Subject: One Buncombe Fund

Brief Summary:

At its January 12th special meeting, the Board of Commissioners requested a public hearing to consider financial support for small businesses impacted by COVID-19 using the One Buncombe fund. The One Buncombe Fund was approved during the April 7th 2020 Public Hearing to provide relief to individuals and businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The purpose of the January 26th Public Hearing is to authorize \$150,000.00 in economic development appropriations in accordance with GS 158-7.1 and Ch. 166A. Additionally, staff request authorization for the reinvestment of any County funds from One Buncombe repayments back into the One Buncombe program. As with other economic development appropriations staff have provided a 10 day notice for the public hearing. If approved, funds will be made available for the small business assistance program.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve the following:

- Resolution authorizing the \$150,000.00 economic development appropriation and reinvestment of any funds it receives from One Buncombe repayments back into the One Buncombe program.
- Budget amendment transferring \$150,000 to again be transferred to BCSF for distribution.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

Manager recommends approval as presented.

Resolution #: 21-01-13

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO
BUNCOMBE COUNTY SERVICE FOUNDATION, INC.**

- WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic this Board created the One Buncombe fund in March of 2020 to support relief efforts for individuals and businesses in the community;
- WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020 this Board appropriated Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) Dollars to Buncombe County Service Foundation, Inc., ("BCSF") for administration of the One Buncombe fund;
- WHEREAS, the COVID-19 the state of emergency continues and this Board requested a public hearing to consider further financial support in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars for small businesses impacted by the pandemic using the One Buncombe fund;
- WHEREAS, this investment will further the economic interests of the County in numerous ways by creating a mechanism to increase and maintain the population, taxable property, employment, industrial output, and small business prospects in Buncombe County;
- WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes §158-7.1 and NCGS Chapter 166A, the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, this Board deems its desirable and in the best interests of the County and its businesses and residents to make this economic development appropriation to BCSF; and
- WHEREAS, this Board of Commissioners has organized and approved the holding of a public hearing at a special meeting of the Board on January 26, 2021 to discuss making appropriations to Buncombe County Service Foundation, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Buncombe County, North Carolina, as follows:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of NCGS §158-7.1 and NCGS Chapter 166A, the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, this Board approves appropriating and spending from the County's general fund amounts to make appropriations of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars to Buncombe County Service Foundation, Inc.
2. Buncombe County Service Foundation, Inc. may reinvest any funds it receives from repayment of County funds previously appropriated to any previous "bridge funding" loan program through the programs hereby established.
3. This Board approves entering into an Agreement by and between Buncombe County and Buncombe County Service Foundation, Inc. for its administration of these funds.
4. That this Board finds and determines that these efforts to provide loans to provide low-cost "bridge funding" to help businesses stay open and limit job losses as well as to facilitate a

small business job retainage grant program to assist those individuals who have suffered substantial financial damages due to the pandemic will further the economic interests of the County in numerous ways by creating a mechanism to increase and maintain the population, taxable property, employment, industrial output, and small business prospects in Buncombe County.

5. The Chairman and County Manager, or either of them, are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do any and all other acts and to execute any and all other documents, which they, in their discretion, deem necessary and appropriate in order to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Resolution, except that none of the above shall be authorized or empowered to do anything or execute any document which is in contravention, in any way, of the specific provisions of this Resolution.

6. All acts and doings of officers, employees and agents of the County, whether taken prior to, on, or after the date of this Resolution, that are in conformity with and in the furtherance of the purposes and intents of this Resolution as described above shall be, and the same hereby are, in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

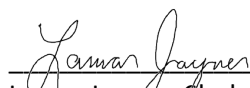
7. Any prior resolutions or parts thereof of the Board in conflict with the provisions herein contained are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded and repealed.

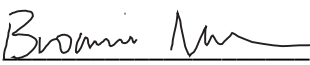
8. This Resolution is effective upon its adoption.

This the 26th day of January, 2021.

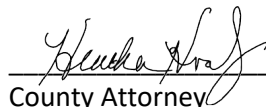
ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

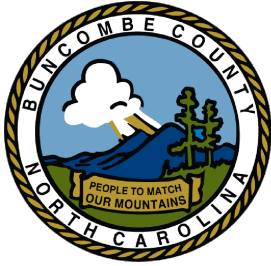

Lamar Joyner, Clerk

By: 
Brownie Newman, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM


County Attorney

ORDINANCE #21-01-14



BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
General Fund

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 26, 2021

WHEREAS, the Budget Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the FY2020-2021 General Fund as outlined below in Exhibit "A" to the budget,
NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the FY 2020-2021 amendments listed in Exhibit A below be hereby adopted.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 26th day of January, 2021.

Requesting Department: Budget

Budget Amendment Item: OneBuncombe Fund Appropriation

Description:

In April 2020, the Board approved funding from the General Fund to be transferred to the Buncombe County Service Foundation (BCSF) for small business relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small businesses continue to be affected by the crisis and this amendment provides \$150,000 to again be transferred to BCSF for distribution. Loans and grants will be offered to provide low-cost "bridge funding" to help businesses stay open and limit job losses while vaccines continue to be distributed. BCSF will contract with a third-party to administer this program.

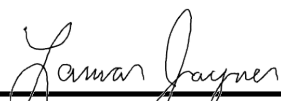
Funding Source:

\$150,000 Appropriated from Fund Balance

Exhibit A:	Increase (Decrease)	
Account Description	Revenues	Expenditures
Fund 100 - Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 150,000	
Fund 100 - Interfund Transfer Expense		\$ 150,000
TOTAL	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:**


Clerk to the Board

By: 
Chairman of the Board

One Buncombe, COVID-19 Rapid Relief Fund

**Public Hearing
January 26, 2021**



Request

Board of Commissioners approval for the following:

- Resolution authorizing the \$150,000 economic development appropriation and reinvestment of any funds it receives from One Buncombe repayments back into the One Buncombe program.
- Budget amendment transferring \$150,000 to BCSF for distribution.



The Need

- In April 2020, the **Community banded together to create the One Buncombe Fund and raised nearly \$1.4M** for individuals and small businesses.
- **One Buncombe results:**
 - **1,048 individuals** with housing, utilities, and emergency assistance
 - **95 small businesses** to help retain 685 local jobs
- Many **small businesses have repaid loans** and those fund are available to be reused in our Community
- **Unemployment rates hover at 6% and applicants for SNAP (24%) and Medicaid (7%) continue to outpace prior years.**
- Businesses are dealing with **depleted cash reserves, increased debt, and increased need to pivot** to online rather than in-person business models.



Small Business Grants – Meeting Unmet Needs

VOL: January 26, 2021
Page9

- **Eligibility:**
 - Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 (less than 25 employees).
 - Ability to demonstrate retention or rehire of employees.
 - Ability to retain employees for 6 months from grant award.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - PPP-ineligible
 - Minority-owned businesses
 - Woman-owned businesses
 - Sole Proprietorships
- **Usage of Funds:** business operations tied to retainage and rehire of employees at a living wage¹.
- **Model:** Grants up to \$5,000 (1+ employees retained) or \$2,500 (1 employee retained)
- **Administered by:** Mountain BizWorks



Funding and Sources

If approved, Staff will pursue additional funding sources including, but not limited to:

- Local Governments
- Foundations
- Private Entities

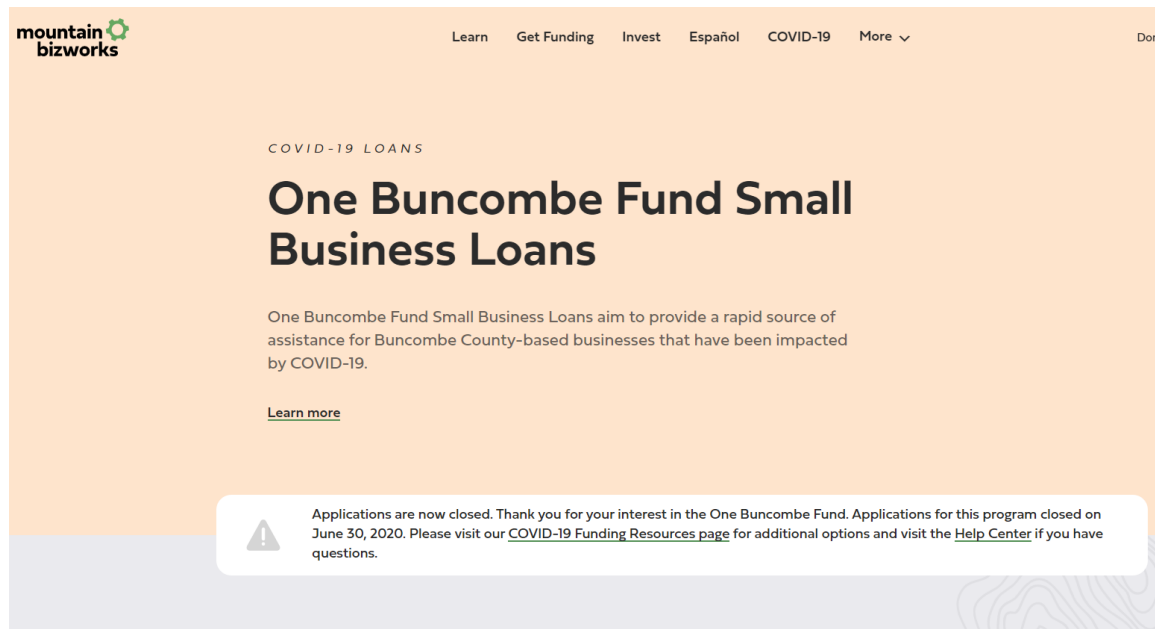
Item	Amount
One Buncombe Remaining Balance	\$50K
New County Funding	\$150K
New Partner Funding Goal	\$300K
<i>Partner Pledges</i>	XXX
Total	\$500K



How Do I learn More or Donate?

To Apply/Learn More:

www.mountainbizworks.org/1bf



The screenshot shows the Mountain BizWorks website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Learn, Get Funding, Invest, Español, COVID-19, and More. The main heading is "COVID-19 LOANS" followed by "One Buncombe Fund Small Business Loans". Below this, a paragraph states: "One Buncombe Fund Small Business Loans aim to provide a rapid source of assistance for Buncombe County-based businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19." A "Learn more" link is provided. A white box at the bottom contains a warning icon and text: "Applications are now closed. Thank you for your interest in the One Buncombe Fund. Applications for this program closed on June 30, 2020. Please visit our [COVID-19 Funding Resources page](#) for additional options and visit the [Help Center](#) if you have questions."



The screenshot shows the One Buncombe website. The header features a graphic of colorful hands holding a heart, with the text "One BUNCOMBE" and "A community with compassion." Below this is a navigation bar with links: About, Impact, Lead Sponsors, Gratitude, Impact Data, and Fundraisers. A "NOTICE:" section at the bottom states: "To apply for help with household rent/utilities, contact Buncombe County Health and Human Services at 828-250-5500. For information about loans/grants for small businesses, contact Mountain BizWorks at 828-253-2834."

One Buncombe was a community COVID-19 response fund sponsored by the Buncombe County Service Foundation. Through donations, sponsorships and grants, we raised nearly \$1.4 million. This bridge funding provided relief to small businesses and individuals and helped lessen the impact of COVID-19 for many of our neighbors.



Request

Board of Commissioners approval for the following:

- Resolution authorizing the \$150,000 economic development appropriation and reinvestment of any funds it receives from One Buncombe repayments back into the One Buncombe program.
- Budget amendment transferring \$150,000 to again be transferred to BCSF for distribution.



Next Steps

- **Press and Community Outreach:** begins now
- **Application Launch:** 2/10
- **Application Close:** 3/1
- **Award Notification:** 3/15
- **Awardees Receive Funds:** 3/31





Appendix



Small Business Support Model

- **Eligibility:** Small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Defined as businesses with less than 50 employees (in practice was 25).
- **Focus Areas:** Sole proprietorship/partnerships, Minority-owned businesses, PPP ineligible businesses, others?
- **Usage of Funds: business operations** including payroll, accounts payable, fixed debts, or other bills the business is unable to pay.
- **Model:**
 - Low interest loans up to \$10,000 with no payments for 12 months.
- **Administered by: Mountain BizWorks**



Individual Support

- **\$1M individual support is now available** for individuals impacted by COVID-19.
- **Contact Buncombe County at 828.250.5500**
 - County staff will receive applications and determine eligibility
 - County staff may direct applicants to other community partners (e.g., Eblen, Pisgah Legal, Community Action Opportunities), as needed



Individual Support Model

- **Eligibility:** Individuals that have lost employment due to COVID-19.
- **Usage of Funds: life essential needs** caused by the COVID-19 public health crisis such as electric bills, deposits, fuel oil, kerosene, natural gas, propane, wood, mortgages, internet access, etc.
- **Model:** direct assistance grants **paid to service provider**, not directly to individuals.
- **Administered by:** Buncombe County Department of **Health and Human Services (HHS)** who will screen applicants to ensure all other potential sources are exhausted, including public assistance programs and the services of our community partners.





COVID-19 Update

Presented by

Stacie Saunders

Public Health Director

Zo Mpofu

Community Health Improvement Specialist

Fletcher Tove

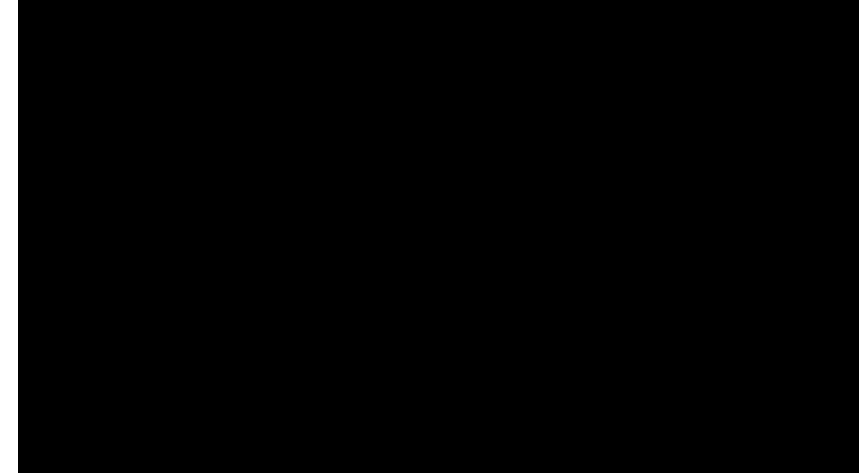
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director

26 January 2021



Key Messages

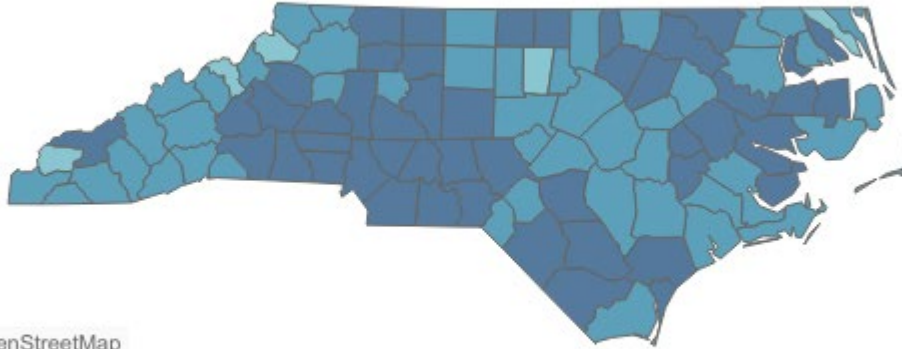
- Current COVID-19 situation report
- Vaccine Rollout update



Cases per 100,000 per week

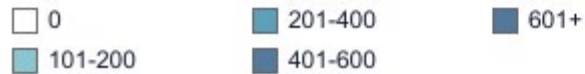
County Map by Cases per 100,000 Residents (Molecular (PCR) and Antigen)

(Click to highlight map, unclick to revert map)



© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Map Credit: NCDHHS



NC DHHS, 1/25/21



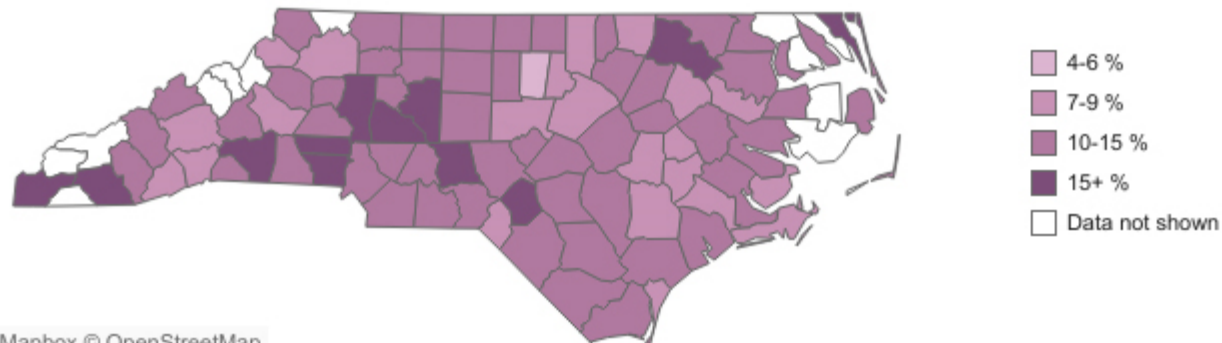
Percent Positivity – Local

Percent Positive by County



Which counties are seeing a decline or sustained level of percent of tests that are positive?

It is important to recognize that the amount of testing being conducted varies across counties. Because the percent positive is calculated using only molecular (PCR) testing data reported electronically in to NC COVID, which is a subset of total tests reported, county-level percent positive rates may be impacted by how many of the total tests for residents in the county were reported electronically through NC COVID.



© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

NC DHHS, 1/25/21



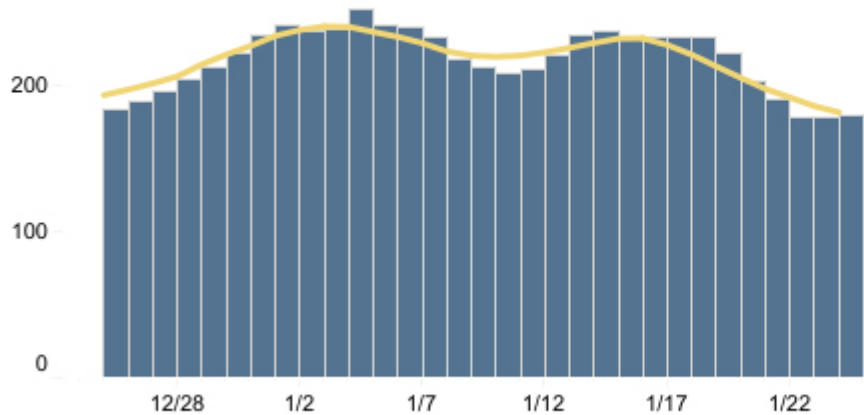
Hospitalizations – Regional

☒ Statewide
☐ Region View

Filter By
Region

MAHPC - Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition

Currently Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients | Statewide



180

Currently Hospitalized

94%

Hospitals Reporting

NC DHHS, 1/25/21



Buncombe County Metrics

Applying Metrics to Buncombe County

Metric	Value	Dark Green	Light Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
New cases per 100,000 population per week	286	≤ 4	5 - 9	10 - 50	51 - 100	≥ 101
Percent change in new cases per 100,000 population	-25.9%	$\leq -26.0\%$	-25.9% - -11.0%	-10.9% - 0.0%	0.1% - 10.0%	$\geq 10.1\%$
Diagnostic test result positivity rate	7.5%	$\leq 2.9\%$	3.0% - 4.9%	5.0% - 7.9%	8.0% - 10.0%	$\geq 10.1\%$
Change in test positivity	-1.3%	$\leq -2.1\%$	-2.0% - -0.6%	-0.5% - 0.0%	0.1% - 0.5%	$\geq .6\%$
Total diagnostic tests resulted per 100,000 population per week	3783	≥ 2001	1001 - 2000	750 - 1000	500 - 749	≤ 499
COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population per week	6.5	≤ 0.1	0.2 - 0.4	0.5 - 1	1.1 - 2	≥ 2.1
Percent change in deaths per 100,000 population	-28.6%	$\leq -26.0\%$	-25.9% - -11.0%	-10.9% - 0.0%	0.1% - 10.0%	$\geq 10.1\%$
Percent inpatient hospital beds occupied with COVID-19	11.4%	$\leq 5.0\%$	5.0% - 10.0%	10.0% - 15.0%	15.0% - 15.0%	$\geq 15.0\%$
Percent ICU beds occupied with COVID-19	29.0%	$\leq 60.0\%$	61.0% - 70.0%	71.0% - 80.0%	81.0% - 90.0%	$\geq 91.0\%$

Updated 1/25/21



Revised Vaccine Prioritization – 1/15/2021



Vaccine Update

Total Vaccine Administered = 7500

Total 1st Dose Administered: about 7000

Total 2nd Dose Administered: about 500

Total Total Vaccine Available = about 2000 1st doses (2 transfers)

Total Vaccine Scheduled = 1912 1st doses scheduled Jan 26-Jan 29

Receiving 975 on Jan 27 - will open additional appointments when arrives and finish shipment on Feb 1

New DHHS guidance, Tue/Wed shipment MUST be used by following Monday



Vaccine Update – New Guidance

- Secretary Cohen released guidance today regarding vaccine allocation
- Vaccine providers will be notified of baseline allocation for 3 weeks out
- Vaccine providers will receive notification on Friday with shipment expected by following Tues/Wed
- All shipments received Tues/Wed must be used by following Monday
- New guidance will require slight change in vaccine clinics
- Will load all 1st dose appointments on Wed, Thur, Fri and Mon, no Tues
 - No change in actual number of appointments as that is based on allocation
 - Moving more appointments to other days so vaccine can be used by Monday in order to be compliant with guidance
- Tuesday will remain a 2nd dose day



VAX OPS – 2nd Dose Site

- Operations began on Jan 25th at A.C. Reynolds HS
 - Continue through March 5th



VAX OPS – 2nd Outdoor Vulnerabilities

- 1 for 1 swap of Tents to Trailers to site
 - Weatherproof, Sustainable, Modular



Vaccine Update - Equity

Current phases do not adequately address equity.

Communications & Outreach

- Let's Talk, direct messaging to partners, traditional media partners and work with Spanish language media partners
- Continued prioritization of language access in community updates
- Equity Team of Vaccine Operations Command Staff worked with community partners to better understand needs of historically marginalized populations

Appointments

- Equity Team worked with partners to identify HMP population that are included in current phases with limited access to wait list process
- Setting aside about 100 appointments per week for HMP individuals (as vaccine supply is maintained)
- Mountain Mobility will provide transportation resources those who identify that they need assistance with transportation to the first and second dose appointments





HOW OUR WAIT LIST PROCESS WORKS



1> Call or visit our website

Call the Ready Team at **(828) 250-5000** from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, or visit **buncombecounty.org** to be added to the wait list for the phase that you fall into.



2> Join the wait list

Once added, you will receive a notification and confirmation number.



3> Scheduling

You will receive a call from the Ready Team at **(828) 419-0095** to schedule your appointment.

If you don't answer the call after the second call, you will lose your spot on the wait list and will get bumped to the bottom of the wait list.



4> Availability and re-scheduling

Once the Ready Team completes scheduling available appointments, they will go through the list again and attempt a 3rd and 4th call to those who they were unable to reach on the 1st and 2nd try.

The Ready Team will **NEVER** ask for your social security number or payment information.



1 a.m.



9 a.m.



