



This is an official DHEC Health Update

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Interim Guidance on testing of close contacts to a confirmed case of COVID-19

Summary

- Because of the potential for asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, it is important that contacts of individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection be identified and tested.
- If logistically possible and resources are available, testing is recommended for all close contacts of persons with SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- If testing is performed of asymptomatic close contacts, it should be done no sooner than 7 days into the contact's quarantine period.

Additional Information

DHEC recommends that symptomatic close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case be tested for the disease.

If resources are available, asymptomatic close contacts may undergo molecular/PCR testing to identify possible illness early in its course, but no sooner than 7 days into the quarantine period.

- Positive results must be reported to DHEC in order to undergo case investigation.
- If negative, asymptomatic close contacts should complete their self-quarantine period since they may still develop infection up to 14 days from their exposure.
- If negative, symptomatic close contacts should continue to self-isolate and follow all recommendations of public health authorities. A second test and additional medical consultation may be needed if symptoms do not improve.
- If testing is not available, symptomatic close contacts should be advised to self-isolate and be managed as a probable case. *Self-isolation is recommended for people with probable or confirmed COVID-19 who have mild illness and are able to recover at home.*

Critical Infrastructure Employees

- To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, critical infrastructure workers and HCWs may be permitted to continue working following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. Any decisions should be made in the context of local circumstances.

Additional Resources

Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html#asymptomatic_exposure

DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of **COVID-19 cases and deaths** is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2020 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2020 Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region			
MAIL TO:			
<u>Lowcountry</u> 4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405 Fax: (843) 953-0051	<u>Midlands</u> 2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204 Fax: (803) 576-2993	<u>Pee Dee</u> 1931 Industrial Park Road Conway, SC 29526 Fax: (843) 915-6502 Fax2: (843) 915-6506	<u>Upstate</u> 200 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29602 Fax: (864) 282-4373
CALL TO:			
<u>Lowcountry</u> Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg Office: (843) 441-1091 Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091	<u>Midlands</u> Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York Office: (888) 801-1046 Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046	<u>Pee Dee</u> Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg Office: (843) 915-8886 Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845	<u>Upstate</u> Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union Office: (864) 372-3133 Nights/Weekends: (864) 423-6648
For information on reportable conditions, see https://www.scdhec.gov/ReportableConditions		<u>DHEC Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention & Control</u> Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology 2100 Bull St • Columbia, SC 29201 Phone: (803) 898-0861 • Fax: (803) 898-0897 Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902	

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Info Service	Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.