



Interim Guidance for COVID-19 for Correctional Facilities

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This is a rapidly evolving situation, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available.

All South Carolina facilities should carefully review the current CDC interim infection control recommendations regarding residents who require or may require evaluation for COVID-19 available at the following links: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>.

Overview of COVID-19:

- Discovered in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Since its initial discovery it has spread world-wide and is considered a Pandemic.
- The virus spreads person-to-person via respiratory droplets that are expelled from the sick individual while sneezing or coughing. One can also become infected through touching objects that have these respiratory droplets on them and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Symptoms can appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath; however, symptoms can range from mild to severe.
- Those at risk for severe illness include elderly adults, immunocompromised individuals, individuals with serious chronic medical conditions (i.e., heart disease, diabetes, lung disease). Currently, there is not enough data to say that pregnant women are not high risk (see resources: CDC Guidance on Pregnancy & Breastfeeding COVID-19).

Infection control recommendations to minimize exposure upon entrance to the facility:

- Ensure proper communication with staff, inmates/detainees, and visitors, including legal counsel, regarding current visitation policies and provide other healthcare facilities and emergency medical services (EMS) with proper details regarding residents before their arrival to the facility and when planning to meet an inmate's/detainee's or staff's individual needs and care goals.
- Ensure procedures (e.g. screening questions and temperature checks) are in place at the correctional facility's point of entry to detect and isolate new inmates/detainees who might require further evaluation for COVID-19. Immediately provide a facemask to these persons and contact medical personnel (see resources: Bureau of Prisons' Visitor/volunteer/contractor COVID-19 Screening Tool).
- Staff and facility workers should be screened upon each entry into the facility. If the staff member is coming from an area with community transmission or has answered yes to any of the screening questions, then the staff member's temperature should be taken



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at each time of entry for 30 days (see resource: Federal Bureau of Prisons COVID-19 Action Plan).

- Due to the ease of spread among the high-risk populations and close quarters in correctional facilities, facilities should discourage visitation, and group activities. Facilities should begin screening visitors even before COVID-19 is identified in their community.

****As of March 13, 2020, visitation at state and local correctional facilities in all 46 counties shall be suspended immediately per state of emergency declaration order from Governor McMaster.****

- Access to in-person legal counsel remains important and can be determined on a case-by-case basis at the local level. If approved, the legal counsel should undergo health screenings and a temperature check (see resource: Federal Bureau of Prisons COVID-19 Action Plan).
- Contractors that perform essential services (i.e. medical services, mental health services, religious services, and critical infrastructure repairs) and necessary maintenance to the facility should undergo health screenings and temperature checks before entrance into the facility.
- Limit inmate transfers to other facilities unless it is for forensic studies, interstate agreements on detainees (IAD), judicial proceedings, medical or mental health reasons, and Residential Reentry Center (RCC) placements.
- All persons entering the facility should perform hand hygiene.
 - Hand washing with soap and water **for at least 20 seconds**. Steps: (1)wet hands with clean water, (2)lather with soap, (3)sing the Happy Birthday Song (20 seconds in length), (4)rinse hands with clean water, (5)dry hands with clean paper towel or air dry. OR
 - Use of Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer (ABHS) **that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Contact local health department if you suspect an inmate/detainee or staff member has COVID-19 (see last page).

Infection control recommendations to minimize risk within the facility:

- Provide education on proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing of at least 6 feet from other individuals to staff and inmates/detainees (see resource: CDC's How to Protect Yourself).



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- If allowed, post signs throughout the facility encouraging hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands (see resources: CDC's COVID-19 Print Resources & DHEC COVID-19 Education & Outreach Materials).
- If feasible, have hand hygiene available at all entry points and other high activity areas of the building. If inmates cannot use ABHS then hand washing is the best alternative:
 - Hand Washing with soap and water **for at least 20 seconds**. Steps: (1)wet hands with clean water, (2)lather with soap, (3)sing the Happy Birthday Song (20 seconds in length), (4)rinse hands with clean water, (5)dry hands with clean paper towel (see Resource: CDC's When and How to Wash Your Hands).
- Hand hygiene should be practiced: before, during, and after preparing food, before eating, before and after caring for someone that is sick, before and after using the toilet, after blowing your nose/sneezing/coughing, before and after touching your face, after touching garbage, etc (see Resource: CDC's When and How to Wash Your Hands).
- Keep restrooms stocked with soap, disposable paper towels, and use non-touch disposal receptacles with liners if possible.
- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces within the facility (i.e., doorknobs, light switches, handrails, bathroom fixtures, countertops, tables, chairs, elevator buttons, workstations, workout room equipment, dining condiment containers, etc). To do this use an EPA-registered disinfectant and follow cleaning directions on the label (see resources: CDC's List of EPA Registered Disinfectant- COVID-19).
- Minimize group dining and/or outside activities by staggering meal and outside times if facility layout permits.

To ensure the health and safety of healthcare personnel and facility workers:

- Educate, train, and practice the appropriate use of PPE with healthcare personnel and workers that may be at risk of exposure to COVID-19 prior to caring for an inmates/detainee (see resources: CDC's Protecting Healthcare Personnel).
- Healthcare personnel and staff at risk of exposure to an individual presenting with signs, symptoms, and/or exposure criteria consistent with COVID-19 should adhere to **Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions including eye protection** (e.g., goggles or face shield; NOTE: glasses are not sufficient for protection).
- Require appropriate hand hygiene with soap and water or ABHS before and after all inmates/detainee contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before putting on and upon removal of PPE, including gloves. Use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled or when otherwise indicated. See above sections for proper ABHS and hand washing practices.



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- Require staff members to stay home for the appropriate amount of time if they are ill (until symptoms are gone for 24 hours) or if they have come into contact with a suspect COVID-19 positive individual (14 days after exposure). If you are experiencing a staff shortage and need guidance, contact your local health department for guidance (see last page).

Infection Control Measures for Asymptomatic & Symptomatic Individuals:

- Inmates/detainees that are asymptomatic but have exposure risk factors should be quarantined for 14 days after exposure and monitored for symptoms. If symptoms develop see next bullet.
- Symptomatic inmates/detainees with exposure risk factors should be isolated and tested for COVID-19 per state public health protocols. (see resources: DHEC HAN Alert for up-to-date guidance).
- If staff or of employees start to experience symptoms while on the job, give a facemask to these persons, remove them from contact with inmates/detainees, and contact medical personnel.

It is important to ensure policies and practices are in place to reduce exposure to respiratory pathogens. The risk for contracting influenza remains high in SC, and DHEC reminds you there is still time to offer influenza vaccine to your inmates/detainees and staff if they have not already received the influenza vaccine this season.

To prevent any virus, all individuals including, but not limited to, staff, inmates/ detainees, and visitors are advised to take the following steps:

- Perform hand hygiene frequently;
- Adhere to respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; and
- Stay isolated or at home when experiencing symptoms of illness.

How to Report a Suspect COVID-19 Case

Report to the DHEC Regional Epidemiology office (listed below) in the region in which the patient resides.

Immediately Reportable (TELEPHONE)

<u>Lowcountry</u> Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton,	<u>Midlands</u> Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Kershaw,	<u>Pee Dee</u> Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence,	<u>Upstate</u> Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood,
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<p>Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg</p> <p>4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405</p> <p>Office: (843) 441-1091 Fax: (843) 953-0051</p> <p>Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091</p>	<p>Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York</p> <p>2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204</p> <p>Office: (888) 801-1046 Fax: (803) 576-2993</p> <p>Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046</p>	<p>Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg</p> <p>1931 Industrial Park Road Conway, SC 29526</p> <p>Office: (843) 915-8886 Fax: (843) 915-6502 Fax2: (843) 915-6506</p> <p>Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845</p>	<p>Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union</p> <p>200 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29602</p> <p>Office: (864) 372-3133 Fax: (864) 282-4373</p> <p>Nights/Weekends: (864) 423-6648</p>
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What to Report

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient’s name • Patient’s complete address, phone, county, date of birth, race, sex, last five digits of social security number • Physician’s name and phone number • Name, institution, and phone number of person reporting • Disease or condition (suspect 2019-nCoV) • Date of diagnosis • Symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of onset of symptoms • Recent travel history (locales, arrival dates, departure dates, mode of transportation) • Lab results, specimen site, collection date • If female, pregnancy status • Patient status: In childcare, food-handler, health care worker, childcare worker, nursing home, prisoner/detainee, travel in last 4 weeks |
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HIPAA: Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512)



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COVID-19 Resources for Correctional Facilities

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC):

COVID-19 Education & Outreach Materials: <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/educational-outreach-materials-2019-ncov>

COVID-19 Website: <https://www.scdhec.gov/index.php/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

DHEC HAN Alert: <https://scdhec.gov/health-professionals/south-carolina-health-alert-network>

SC State of Emergency Order: <https://governor.sc.gov/news/2020-03/gov-henry-mcmaster-declare-state-emergency-order-lancaster-kershaw-county-schools>

South Carolina Department of Corrections (SC DOC):

SC DOC: <http://www.doc.sc.gov/>

American Jail Association:

American Jail Association COVID-19 Resources:
<https://www.americanjail.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=282>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

COVID-19 Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hospital-preparedness-checklist.pdf>

***Note:** Even though for hospitals, this provides a good foundation for all healthcare facilities to ensure their preparedness.

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Guidance on Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation (PUI):
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Guidance for Risk Assessment and PH Management of HCP with potential Exposure to Coronavirus:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Guidance on Pregnancy & Breastfeeding COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy->



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[breastfeeding.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fpregnancy-faq.html](#)

How to Protect Yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Nursing Homes: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/prevent-spread-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

List of EPA Registered Disinfectant- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)- Fighting Products: <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>

Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Homes and Residential Communities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

Print Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>

When and How to Wash Your Hands: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP):

COVID-19 Action Plan: https://www.bop.gov/resources/news/20200313_covid-19.jsp

Implementing Modified Operations: https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/covid19_status.jsp

Visitor/volunteer/contractor COVID-19 Screening Tool: https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/docs/Visitor_Volunteer_Contractor_COVID-19%20Screening_v1_March_2020.pdf

National Commission on Correction Health Care (NCCHC):

NCCHC: COVID-19 (Coronavirus): What You Need to Know in Corrections: <https://www.ncchc.org/blog/covid-19-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know-in-corrections>