



**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster declared a State of Emergency based on a determination that Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) posed an actual or imminent public health emergency for the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor also directed the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to utilize and exercise any and all emergency powers, as set forth in the Emergency Health Powers Act, codified as amended in Title 44, Chapter 4 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, deemed necessary to promptly and effectively address the current public health emergency. In accordance with Section 44-4-500 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, the Governor ordered that DHEC shall “use every available means to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to ensure that all cases of infectious disease are subject to proper control and treatment.”; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia, pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (“Stafford Act”); and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Governor requested that the President of the United States declare that a major disaster exists in the State of South Carolina pursuant to Section 401 of the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the President of the United States granted the Governor’s request and declared that a major disaster exists in the State of South Carolina and ordered federal assistance to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with an effective date retroactive to January 20, 2020, and continuing; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the Governor declared a continued State of Emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of April 1, 2020, DHEC has confirmed 1,293 cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina, a number that is rapidly increasing, resulting in 25 deaths; and

WHEREAS, as of April 1, 2020, COVID-19 is widespread throughout the state, with confirmed cases in 43 of 46 counties; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina is engaged in an all-hands effort to both reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the availability of medical resources to care for those who become ill; and

WHEREAS, local governments in South Carolina, with assistance from the State of South Carolina, are executing a community-based solution to temporarily isolate and quarantine the following populations: (1) first responders and healthcare workers who need to quarantine or isolate safely without exposing their families, and (2) indigent individuals who require quarantine or isolation; and

WHEREAS, local governments in South Carolina, with assistance from the State of South Carolina, are utilizing non-congregate solutions, including motels/hotels and public facilities such as modular units or dormitories, to temporarily isolate and quarantine the following populations: (1) first responders and healthcare workers who need to quarantine or isolate safely without exposing their families, and (2) indigent individuals who require quarantine or isolation; and

WHEREAS, as the Acting Director of Public Health, I have reviewed the data regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases and reported exposures among the population in South Carolina, to include cases and reported exposures in vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, DHEC recognizes that non-congregate sheltering is necessary during this emergency to save lives, protect property and public health and safety, and lessen or avert the threat of catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 44-1-80(A) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, DHEC must enforce or prescribe preventive measures as may be needed to suppress or prevent the spread of these diseases by proper quarantine or other measures of prevention, as may be necessary to protect citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 44-1-140 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, DHEC may issue orders and rules to meet any emergency for the purpose of suppressing nuisances dangerous to the public health and communicable, contagious and infectious diseases and other danger to the public life and health; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 44-4-500 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, DHEC must use every available means to prevent the transmission of infection disease and to ensure that all cases of infectious disease are subject to proper control and treatment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to save lives, protect property, public health, and safety, as well as to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe, I direct the implementation of non-congregate temporary quarantine and isolation solutions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable populations.

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This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration of the emergency.



Nicholas E. Davidson
Acting Director of Public Health

Date: 4/1/2020