FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **DATE: March 30, 2020**
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FIVE CASES OF COVID-19 IN COLLETON COUNTY

As of this afternoon, Colleton County officials have been notified of five total cases of COVID-19 in Colleton County. While DHEC has notified the County that four of these five cases of COVID-19 are in the 29488 ZIP code (DHEC has not notified the County of the location of the fifth case), DHEC is not providing any additional information. The ZIP code data for the state is available on DHEC's COVID-19 webpage, specifically on the Testing & SC Data page, underneath the county map. This can be found by following the link below.

https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/monitoring-testing-covid-19

It's important to note that there are likely many more people in the community who have this virus and have never been tested. Also, DHEC isn't notified when individuals are no longer infectious (i.e., they are well), and as a result, these numbers likely include people who have recovered and no longer pose a risk to others.

Colleton County residents are urged to follow the guidance of Governor McMaster and the recommendations of the CDC. This information can be accessed at colletoncounty.org/coronavirus.

CDC HEALTH UPDATE

The CDC has published a health update providing information on severe illness associated with using non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate to prevent and treat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This Health Update is posted on the DHEC website at https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/10454-CHU-03-28-2020-COVID-19.pdf.

COLLETON COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Colleton County Fire-Rescue is still responding to emergency requests as they normally would, but with some changes in order to protect staff. Family members are not allowed to ride in the ambulance with the patients. The only exception is a child or an incapable adult. Colleton County Fire-Rescue is also asking that individuals that are able to walk to meet the crews outside of the residence, if possible.

Colleton County citizens are encouraged to write down their medication list and medical history on a sheet of paper. This will be helpful for the doctors and nurses who will care for you at the hospital, as your family members may not be allowed in the treatment areas with you.

Colleton County Fire-Rescue's Emergency Management Division is operating a virtual Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with most of the Emergency Support Function partners calling in to daily conference calls. All EOC phones are forwarded to the appropriate agencies to assist the public.

Fire-Rescue Headquarters is closed to public traffic, as are other county facilities, but staff is present and can assist the public by calling (843) 539-1960.

Fire-Rescue is operating at normal levels and volunteers and career personnel stand ready to assist our community as the need arises.

The following County buildings will remained closed to walk-in traffic until further notice: J.P. Harrelson, Old Jail, all Library branches, Recreation Center, The Restaurant at Dogwood Hills, Voter Registration, Jefferson Howell, Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce Economic Development, Museum, Farmers Market & Commercial Kitchen, Colleton Civic Center, Animal Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Veteran's Affairs.

For additional information regarding County office closures, please see the 3-17-2020 press release at https://www.colletoncounty.org/Data/Sites/1/media/covid-19/colleton-county-covid-19-update-3-17-2020.pdf. This information can also be found by using the email addresses and phone numbers on the County's website at https://colletoncounty.org/department-services. If you do not have access to the County's website, please call 843-549-5221.

CITY OF WALTERBORO - GROCERY STORES

The City of Walterboro has coordinated with local grocery stores to establish senior shopping hours in order to more safely serve our seniors and vulnerable adults.

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH

The Town of Edisto Beach passed ordinance 2020-11 on March 29, 2020 declaring a local state of emergency, which shall continue for a period of not more than sixty days from the date of the declaration unless continued or renewed by the Town. This ordinance outlines restrictions

related to access to the Town of Edisto Beach. The ordinance can be found at www.townofedistobeach.com or at https://www.colletoncounty.org/Data/Sites/1/media/covid-19/town-of-edisto-beach-ordinance-2020-11.pdf.

SUMMARY OF GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Governor Henry McMaster's Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 Pandemic can be accessed by following the link below.

https://governor.sc.gov/executive-branch/executive-orders

REMINDERS AND HELPFUL LINKS

The chain of command and direction and control during a public health emergency is different than what is exercised during a natural or human-made disaster. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is the lead agency. DHEC officials are working closely with our federal partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If you are concerned about the coronavirus (COVID-19) or experiencing respiratory or flu-like symptoms such as fever and/or cough, MUSC recommends you speak to an online virtual care provider. Virtual COVID-19 screenings are free. Just use the code COVID19 when you follow the link below and log in to MUSC's Telehealth service. No appointment is necessary, and this service also covers other conditions, such as allergy/hay fever, sinus infection, pink eye, sore throat, or the common cold. You can also call 843-261-5940 for more information.

https://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html

For more information, please visit the links below.

- SCDHEC - https://www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19
- John Hopkins Center Global Tracker – https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6
- CDC - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- WHO - https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
- Colleton County Government – https://www.colletoncounty.org/Coronavirus

Should you have any questions, please visit Colleton County Fire-Rescue's Emergency Management Division webpage at www.colletonfire.com. Colleton County Fire-Rescue's Emergency Management Division and all of our Emergency Support Function partners have been collaborating for several days now and will continue to monitor COVID-19.