COLLETON COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **DATE: July 15, 2020**

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                                843-549-5632 (Emergency Operations Center)
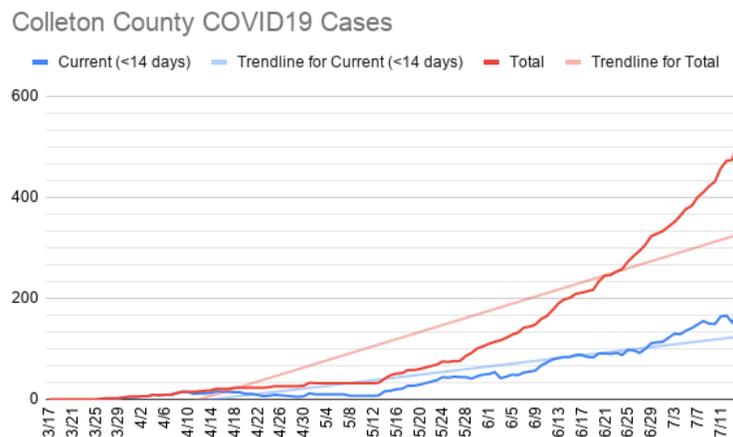**E-Mail: mutsey@colletoncounty.org**

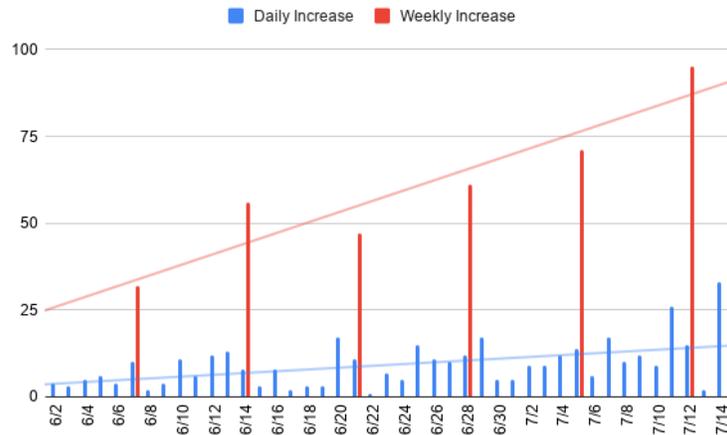### Colleton County sees Increase in COVID-19 Cases

Between June 1, 2020 and July 15, 2020, there has been a 361% increase in COVID-19 cases in Colleton County.

The increasing case counts are due only in part to increased testing. The biggest reason for the increased case count is increased disease spread with people gathering in large groups, not practicing social distancing and not wearing masks in public. The percent positive metric should decrease when increased testing is performed. The fact that the opposite is occurring (an increase in the percent positive metric with increased testing) suggests there is significant community spread of COVID19 throughout the state of South Carolina and in Colleton County.

In addition to increased cases and testing, South Carolina is seeing a corresponding increase in hospitalizations and ventilator usage, suggesting that there are increasing numbers of moderate and severe cases. This is evident locally at Colleton Medical Center.

Below, please see the charts outlining the increases in Colleton County COVID-19 cases.

Colleton County COVID19 Cases

Colleton County COVID-19 Update

Colleton County officials have been notified of 519 total cases of COVID-19 in Colleton County, with 181 current cases. 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.

Unfortunately, DHEC has also announced 23 deaths related to COVID-19 in Colleton County.

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

DHEC has provided demographic data on nursing homes and extended care facilities that have been impacted by COVID-19. This data shows that Pruitt Health Nursing Home in Walterboro has 32 confirmed COVID-19 resident cases, 10 confirmed COVID-19 staff cases and 10 confirmed COVID-19 resident deaths. Additionally, the Veteran's Victory House Nursing Home has 5 confirmed COVID-19 resident cases, 4 confirmed COVID-19 staff cases and no reported deaths.

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.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health and the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services have Teamed Up to Offer a 24/7 Support Line

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on individuals in South Carolina, and the SC Department of Mental Health and the SC Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services have teamed up to offer a 24/7 support line to address these challenges. Please call and speak with one of their experienced professionals today - they will offer guidance, support, and resources to help. The number for SC HOPES is 844-SC-HOPES.

Note: SC HOPES is not a crisis line. If you are experiencing an emergency, please call SCDMH's crisis line at 833-364-2274.

GOVERNOR MCMASTER'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS

If you have questions regarding Governor McMaster's executive orders and how they relate to your business, please contact the South Carolina Department of Commerce by email at covid19sc@sccommerce.com or by phone at 803-734-2873.

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 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 over four months now and will continue to monitor COVID-19.