



Colleton County Sheriff's Office

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For Immediate Release

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In an attempt to protect our citizens and our personnel amid the COVID-19 crisis, the Colleton County Sheriff's Office will be moving into the third tier of modified operations. This change is in continued support of the emergency declarations from both President Trump and Governor McMaster and based on collaborative recommendations from all Essential Support personnel with the Colleton County Fire Rescue Emergency Management.

Tier 1 included the implementation of social distancing practices, enhanced cleaning procedures at our Law Enforcement Center and distribution of available PPE or personal protective equipment to all personnel. Tier 1 also directed 911 Dispatchers to screen all callers requesting medical assistance for COVID-19 symptoms.

Tier 2 redirected 911 Dispatchers to screen ALL callers for COVID-19 symptoms and to encourage citizens to meet Deputies outside for face-to-face reporting. The Law Enforcement Center was placed into limited access lockdown, restricting non-employees to the main lobby. Public visitation at the Colleton County Detention Center was suspended, along with the Explorer program and the Educational Ride-Along program. A screening process was initiated for all on-duty CCSO personnel and employees were urged to reconsider personal travel plans.

Tier 3 modifications will begin at 8am on Friday, March 27th, and are defined as follows:

- Until further notice, Deputies will be responding to complaints of non-emergency incidents that have occurred in the past with a telephone call to the complainant. Incident reports will still be written and follow-up investigations, where necessary, will still occur. Examples of calls that are likely to receive a phone call response are thefts or vandalisms that have already occurred.
- The Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Center will be closed to the public until further notice.
- Citizens may get copies of completed incident reports by emailing reports@colletoncounty.org.
- All sex offender registry concerns should be referred to Deputy Yolonda Washington at 843-549-2211, extension 2026.

The Colleton County Sheriff's Office will continue to ensure the safety of our citizens and our community. This alternative plan will in no way inhibit proactive patrolling and rapid response to emergency situations.

The procedure for citizens remains unchanged. Always call 911 if there is an emergency. If it is a non-emergency, please call the Colleton County Dispatch Center as 843-549-2211.