



COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF CHARLES GHENT

COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COVID-19 UPDATE

Colleton County, SC (March 19, 2020): The Colleton County Sheriff's Office continues to work with numerous agencies throughout South Carolina regarding policies and procedures to ensure the safeness of all people, residences, businesses, and places of worship. Including daily screenings of all Sheriff's Office employees; to minimize the spread of this disease. As of this morning, South Carolina has seen a slight increase in the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases. There are now 60 confirmed cases in our state, Colleton County still has no confirmed cases at this time. There is also a social media rumor floating around regarding a statewide mandated quarantine; this is false. Currently, there is no plan to put this into effect. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office understands social media is a great tool, but can also create confusion; we urge citizens to visit legitimate sites (see links provided below) to receive factual information regarding Covid-19.

As the Colleton County Sheriff's Office continues normal business operations, we are asking the public to limit office visits by handling all non-emergencies via telephone 843-549-2211. If you require assistance, (walk-ups, emergency or non-emergency) dispatchers and deputies will ask questions regarding specific coronavirus symptoms. If possible, some calls for service will be handled by deputies via telephone; this is to decrease personal contact, in return, lowering the chances of contracting/passing the disease. If a call is received that requires deputies to respond, dispatchers are requesting the complainant meet outside the residence, if able, to ensure all parties' well-being. CDC guidelines advise to remain 6 feet away from someone and to avoid close contact, if possible. Our goal is to eliminate the risk of coronavirus. Implementing these policies and procedures will assist in decreasing the risk of spreading this disease. Investigators/deputies will be following up on all cases if this step is warranted.

The Colleton County Sheriff's Office would like to remind our citizens that all restaurants/bars are closed for public access to minimize the spread of Covid-19 and encourage our citizens to take advantage of the many curbside options available via local restaurants. Additional patrols are working hard to ensure businesses are safe and following the state guideline that's in place.

The Colleton County Detention Centers suspended visitation order is still in effect to ensure the well-being of all inmates, arrestees, and staff. All officers are instructed on the proper screening techniques and are aware of the appropriate steps to take regarding reducing the spread of the virus. If an officer observes an arrestee/inmate exhibiting signs related to the Covid-19 virus, officers will notify medical personnel immediately. If medical personnel suspect Covid-19, detention officers will isolate the inmate/arrestee to prevent further transmission. Medical staff will closely monitor and treat the individual. The Colleton County Detention Center has increased its daily cleaning routine to include mopping all floors and wiping down all surfaces, counters, door handles, handrails, etc. Our officers

will continue to follow proper hygiene practices and wear gloves when in contact with inmates to ensure the well-being of all parties.

This morning, the Colleton County School District announced school bus drivers delivered over 2,400 breakfast/lunches to local children. Information regarding drop-off times and locations are available on our website.

Colleton County school resource officers are assisting our road patrol division in ensuring the safeness of our citizens, residences, businesses, and places of worship. Also, we encourage citizens to be mindful of potential scams that could take place. If you notice something suspicious, please call the Colleton County Sheriff's office at 843.549.2211

www.scdhec.gov

www.colletoncounty.org/coronavirus

www.web.musc.edu/coronavirus-updates

www.scemd.org

www.coronavirus.jhu.edu

www.colletonmedicalcenter.com/covid-19

www.walterborosc.org/city-walterboro-monitors-covid-19

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html