



COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF CHARLES GHENT

COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COVID-19 UPDATE

Colleton County, SC (March 26, 2020): The Colleton County Sheriff's Office would like to take this time to reassure our residents; despite the increase in Covid-19 cases across the state, as of noon this evening, there remains just one confirmed case of Covid-19, in Colleton, no new cases have come forward at this point. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office is continuing our efforts with state and local agencies to combat this dangerous virus to protect all individuals, and are reminding our residents to keep referring to the guidelines implemented by the CDC to aid in protecting all individuals from catching/spreading this virus. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office is reminding our citizens there's no justification for lawlessness during this challenging time. If you see something suspicious in your area, please call 843.549.2211

The Colleton County Sheriff's is receiving questions regarding worship services. As of last week, most churches have taken a pro-active approach regarding services, including live streaming services enabling church members to worship from their homes; some are implementing additional safety measures regarding services, following CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid-19, allowing members to continue worship services. Section 16-7-10 states gatherings involving established fundamental constitutional protections are authorized, even if discretion dictates they are discouraged. Some examples of essential legal protections are the freedom of religion inherent in a church or other religious meeting, or a wedding or funeral.

In compliance with Governor Henry McMaster's latest closure order, the Colleton County School District is remaining closed through April 30. The school district is encouraging all persons with questions/concerns regarding the extended closure to visit their website for up-to-date information. www.colletonsd.org

HIPPA laws govern you, the people, to ensure your safeness. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office doesn't make the laws; we abide and enforce them. Residents wishing to voice their concerns regarding HIPPA laws need to be directing all concerns/questions to the Department of Health and Human Services www.hhs.gov

Currently, there is no plan to put a state-wide mandated quarantine 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 below) to receive factual information regarding Covid-19.

The Colleton County Sheriff's Office is reminding our residents that all restaurants/bars are closed for public access to minimize the spread of Covid-19 and encourage our residents 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 closing of Edisto Beach is in effect until further notice. SLED, SCDNR, and CCSO are assisting the Edisto Police Department in enforcing all state-mandated regulations and ensuring the safeness of all Edisto Beach residents.

As the Colleton County Sheriff's Office continues normal business operations, we are conducting daily screenings of all employees regarding Covid-19 signs/symptoms. To ensure the safeness of all individuals' administration is asking the public to refrain from office visits by handling all non-emergencies via telephone 843-549-2211. If assistance is required (walk-ups, emergency, or non-emergency), dispatchers/deputies will be asking specific questions regarding Covid-19. 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 the well-being of all individuals. 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 is assisting us 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 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 illness, 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 individuals.

Colleton County School District school bus drivers are delivering breakfast/lunches on Monday through Friday 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

