



COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF CHARLES GHENT

COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COVID-19 UPDATE

Colleton County, SC (March 18, 2020): As of this morning, there are 47 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina, none of which are in Colleton County. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office continues to monitor the coronavirus effects, and we are committed to providing our citizens with up-to-date information, to include changes that take place within our office. The Colleton County Sheriff's Office is currently functioning under normal operations and will remain open at this time. Our administration is working with Colleton Medical Center, Southern Health Partners, Colleton County Fire-Rescue, Colleton County government, FREMD, and the state of South Carolina to ensure proper procedures regarding coronavirus. Including screening all sheriff's office employees to minimize the potential spread of this disease.

The Colleton County Sheriff's Office is 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.

On Friday, March 13, the Colleton County Detention Center suspended visitation to ensure the well-being of all inmates, arrestees, and staff. If an officer observes an arrestee/inmate exhibiting signs related to the Covid-19 virus, our officers will notify medical personnel. If medical is unavailable during this time, an officer will immediately report this information to their supervisor. The supervisor will ask the inmate/arrestee specific questions relating to the detection of Covid-19. Such as, does the arrestee/inmate have a fever, difficulty breathing, congestion, and cough? If the arrestee/inmate answers "yes" to any of the above questions, the arrestee/inmate will wear a facemask to help reduce spreading the virus. Officers will isolate the inmate/arrestee to prevent further transmission. Medical personnel 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.

Colleton County school resource officers are assisting our road patrol division in ensuring the safeness of our citizens, residences, businesses, and places of worship. Included below are some legitimate websites for accurate information regarding coronavirus. 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.com

www.colletoncounty.org/coronavirus

www.web.musc.edu/coronavirus-updates