



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colleton County Government Offices Reopening to the Public on June 15, 2020

Colleton County Government will be reopening offices to the public beginning Monday, June 15th. In our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we encourage employees and visitors to continue these safe practices:

Maintain social-distancing (specifically, stay 6 feet away from others when you enter a shared space);

Frequently wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available;

Individuals are encouraged to wear masks;

Monitor your health, check for fever, and stay home when you're feeling sick.

Before entering County Buildings, individuals must verify the below statements regarding any illness or symptoms related to COVID-19. Individuals must affirm a "no" answer to all three of the statements in order to enter County Buildings.

Have you experienced any new or worsening flu-like symptoms, such as fever (100.4 F or higher), cough, shortness of breath or GI symptoms?

Have you been in close contact with someone under evaluation for COVID-19 or with someone who has a confirmed infection of COVID-19?

Have you, in the last 14 days, traveled or have had family members travel in an airplane or to high-risk areas for the transmission of COVID-19?

If your answer is "yes" to any of the above statements, please return to your vehicle and continue to virtually access Colleton County Government services. To access County services virtually, please use the email addresses and phone numbers on the County's website at <https://colletoncounty.org/departments-services>. If you do not have access to the County's website, please call 843-549-5221.

Colleton County Memorial Library

The Colleton County Memorial Library has the following restrictions in place related to COVID-19, until further notice.

Due to the additional time needed to properly sanitize and quarantine returning library materials, shelving and additional cleaning of library work spaces, library hours at the Main library will be temporarily limited for the summer. The Library will be open Monday through Friday from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm and on Saturdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

The Cottageville Library will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm and on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

The Edisto Beach Library will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and on Wednesdays from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Juveniles aged 16 and under must be accompanied by their parent/legal guardian or an adult who assumes direct responsibility for the child while in the library;

The Children's Room, Teen Room, library auditorium and conference room will be off limits for social gatherings at this time. However, a parent with their child may still enter the Teen Room or Children's Room to get a book off the shelves and check them out. Children will not be able to socially gather and stay in those rooms.

There will be limited public computer access. There will be 10 computers available for the public to access the Internet and print out documents. These 10 computers will be reserved on a first come, first served basis with a limit of 30 minutes per use.

Curbside pickup service will still be offered to patrons who are still hesitant about entering the library.

Colleton County Animal Services

The Colleton County Animal Shelter will be open Monday through Friday from 11 am until 3 pm. The Shelter will be open on Saturdays, by appointment only, for adoptions.

Donations of pet food and cat litter only are being accepted during the shelter's public hours. Individuals interested in adopting a pet are encouraged to schedule an appointment by calling 843-893-2651 or by sending an email to ccaec@colletoncounty.org.

Individuals interested in surrendering a pet must call 843-893-2651. Owner surrenders are accepted on a space available basis by appointment only. Residents who have found a stray pet are encouraged to call 843-893-2651 to request a pickup by Animal Control.

Colleton County Animal Services is not accepting feral cats in private traps at this time. Residents who need help with cats must call 843-893-2651 to initiate a visit from Animal Control. Donations of pet food are being accepted during the shelter's public hours.

COLLETON COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

Colleton County officials have been notified of 165 total cases of COVID-19 in Colleton County, with 73 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 16 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.

Fetter Health Care Network - Free COVID-19 Testing Site at Bells Elementary

Fetter Health Care Network will offer a free mobile COVID-19 screening and testing site on Thursday, June 18th from 10 am until 3 pm at Bells Elementary School, 12088 Bells Highway, Ruffin, SC. Screening prior to arrival is highly encouraged for faster service.

Individuals who have known COVID-19 exposure or are experiencing cough, fever and shortness of breath can request a screening at FetterCovid19Screening.org or by calling 1-800-365-7410. Residents are asked to wear face coverings and practice safe social distancing while at the mobile testing site.

Tests are given with no out-of-pocket cost to patients. Currently, all insurance providers in South Carolina are covering the full cost of COVID-19 testing. Patient insurance information will be processed during testing. No co-pays or deductibles are being charged. All patients will be served if qualified for the test.

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 two months now and will continue to monitor COVID-19.