

COVID-19 Update

July 20, 2020

5 p.m.

SCDC announced the death today of an offender from Lieber Correctional Institution, who died from complications of COVID-19.

Robert Lee Ficklin, 58, who had several underlying medical conditions, died at Lieber today, July 20.

When Ficklin was admitted to the temporary reception and evaluation center at Lieber on June 23, he was sick with a fever and cough, among other symptoms consistent with his other illnesses. An initial COVID-19 test showed negative results, but a retest later showed he was positive. He was the first inmate at Lieber R&E to test positive. All new arrivals automatically are put in quarantine for 14 days.

SCDC has suspended receiving any new inmates from county facilities through July 31.

As of today, 13 offenders and 13 staff members at Lieber have tested positive for COVID-19. SCDC, with 16,802 offenders, has had 639 offenders test positive for the coronavirus systemwide. Of those, 155 have recovered and 484 are active cases. There are 114 active staff cases. This is the department's eighth inmate death associated with the virus.

SCDC is working closely with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control to ensure proper guidelines and protocols are being followed to safely manage our staff and offenders.

Further updates about the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on our website, www.doc.sc.gov.