

**South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) COVID-19 Action Plan
February 15, 2022**

SCDC manages a statewide correctional system involving 21 prisons located throughout the state, which are of various security levels and specialized missions. SCDC planned for coronavirus (COVID-19) starting February 2020 and has continued to monitor, develop, and implement policy and procedures since this time to mitigate transmission. SCDC has continued to work in conjunction with subject matter experts from S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

VISITATION: Visitation is evaluated each week for both in person and virtual visitation. Visitation is dependent on current COVID cases, both at the institution and in the community. All visitors are screened prior to entrance to an SCDC facility. Inmates are also screened prior to visitation. Visitors and inmates must wear masks during the entirety of the visit.

LEGAL VISITS: Access to legal counsel remains a paramount requirement in the SCDC but like visitation, the SCDC is mitigating the risk of exposure created by external visitors. Attorneys seeking an in-person visit with their client or a confidential call should contact the institution (<http://www.doc.sc.gov/institutions/institutions.html>) or contact the Office of General Counsel at (803) 896-8508 to arrange. The attorney will need to undergo screening using the same procedures as staff and complete an Attestation of No Known Illness form (SCDC Form M-217). Attorneys should also maintain social distancing of 6' from their client.

INMATE MOVEMENT: Inmate facility transfers are scheduled as needed to ensure classification, medical, and mental health needs are met. Inmates are tested with each transfer. Admission of new inmates continues; however, such inmates will be screened, checked for exposure and isolated or quarantined as deemed appropriate.

WORK RELEASE AND LABOR CREWS: All work release and labor crews are utilized as needed unless the inmate assigned to the crew is in an isolation or quarantine dorm. Inmates on labor crews are subject to periodic COVID testing.

OFFICIAL STAFF TRAVEL: Official staff travel returned to normal procedures.

TRAINING: All staff training and meetings continue to be held. Virtual meetings are still encouraged when applicable.

STAFF HIRING: Staff hiring initiatives continue. Potential employees will be screened using the same procedures as staff prior to entry.

CONTRACTORS: Contractor access to SCDC facilities continues; however, contractors who require access will be screened using the same procedures as staff prior to entry and will have limited access to the inmate population.

VENDORS: Vendor access to SCDC facilities continues; however, vendors who require access will be screened using the same procedures as staff prior to entry and will have limited access to the inmate population.

INSTITUTIONAL MAINTENANCE: Institutional maintenance continues.

VOLUNTEERS: Volunteer access to SCDC facilities will resume; however, volunteers who require access will be screened using the same procedures as staff prior to entry and will have limited access to the inmate population.

SCREENING OF STAFF: Enhanced health screening of staff continues statewide. Such screening includes self-reporting and temperature checks. Staff are tested for COVID on a routine basis.

SCREENING OF INMATES: The SCDC maintains an infectious disease management program as a matter of routine. To address the specific issues involving COVID-19, the SCDC uses the following practices:

- All newly-arriving SCDC inmates are being screened for COVID-19 exposure risk factors and symptoms and tested for COVID 19
- Asymptomatic inmates with exposure risk factors are quarantined and tested for COVID 19
- Symptomatic inmates with exposure risk factors are isolated and tested for COVID-19

TOURS: Tours are approved by the Deputy Director for Operations.

MODIFIED OPERATIONS: All staff and inmates are instructed to maintain social distancing and wear masks. Modifications to institutional operations may be implemented for inmates services (education, programming, recreation) in order to mitigate the risk and spread of COVID-19, specifically when there are increased rates of isolation and quarantine cases for both inmates and staff.

Vaccinations: SCDC inmates have been offered COVID vaccinations and this practice is ongoing.

Mask: Inmates and staff inside correctional facilities will mask based on the recommendations and guidelines from CDC.

*Please note that this action plan will be reevaluated as needed in consultation with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.