



COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF CHARLES GHENT

COLLETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COVID-19 UPDATE

Colleton County, SC (March 20, 2020): The Colleton County Sheriff's Office is continuously working with state and local agencies around the clock to combat this severe disease. Our administration is considering all new information regarding adding additional safety measures to enhance our current policies and procedures. As of 11 am this morning, DHEC officials are confirming 81 cases of Covid-19; no new cases have come forward since yesterday evening. There are still no cases of Covid-19 in Colleton. All agencies are urging community members to follow guidelines put forth by reputable agencies continuing to aid in prevention. 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.

There's still a social media rumor floating around regarding a statewide mandated quarantine; this is false. Currently, there is no plan to put this 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 would like to remind our citizens that all restaurants/bars are closed for public access to minimize the spread of Covid-19 and encourage our citizens 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.

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 parties administration 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. 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 parties.

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