



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Please visit accelerate.sc.gov for COVID-19 related inquiries.

Please note the Public Information Line ("PIPS line") is fully functional from 8am to 6pm (same hours as DHEC Line). Please feel free to refer coronavirus related calls to 1-866-246-0133.

SC SUMMARY – JUNE 29

SOUTH CAROLINA has [33,221 confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19 and 712 confirmed deaths. Last week, DHEC reported no less than 892 new cases every day, ranging up to 1,599 on Saturday. For the past week, the percentage positive ranged from 12.6% to 20.1% on Sunday.

Charleston County reported the [most new cases](#) Sunday with 239 new coronavirus cases. Greenville and Horry counties had 194 and 185 cases, respectively. Greenville County has the most overall cases in South Carolina with 4,896 positive tests, followed by Charleston County's 3,660, according to DHEC.

Health officials estimate that as many as 86% of all COVID-19 cases in the state have gone undiagnosed or untested. As of Sunday, that would put the total number of people who have likely contracted the virus since March at 227,500.

The United States has more than 2.6 million cases and over 128,000 deaths. Globally, there are more than 10 million case and over 505,000 deaths.

GOVERNOR MCMASTER issued Executive Order 2020-42, declaring a new state of emergency in South Carolina. The Governor asked DHEC to draft a [plan](#) that will allow immediate families to safely visit their loved ones who live in assisted living facilities. Accordingly, DHEC will issue guidance allowing outdoor visits this week.

The Governor has no plans to lift restrictions on night clubs, concert venues, theaters, auditoriums, performing arts centers and spectator sports until data shows that virus activity is going down.

GOVERNOR MCMASTER signed into law legislation passed by the SC House and Senate planning for the expenditure of more than \$1.2 billion in federal COVID-19 relief. Included in

the COVID-19 legislation is \$500 million to help fill back up the state's jobless fund, which since March, when the outbreak first hit South Carolina, has lost more than \$540 million, or about 49%, of its initial \$1.1 billion total. Another \$270 million will go to reimbursement of state agencies, local governments and universities for COVID-19 spending. \$50 million will be spent to expand broadband internet. Lawmakers will hold onto more than \$668 million for future, unforeseen expenditures.

HOSPITALIZATIONS in South Carolina related to COVID-19 increased to 954 last week, out of 7,488 total in use. Statewide, hospitals are at nearly 71.23% capacity as of Sunday. Governor McMaster said that the state is prepared to implement a plan to create new hospital beds should cases continue to surge, and, if necessary, he may require medical facilities to postpone elective procedures if the state needs more hospital beds.

CHARLESTON passed an ordinance requiring mask usage in public places. Myrtle Beach is expected to vote on the issue this week. Mount Pleasant will discuss the issue today. Spartanburg passed a similar ordinance, which goes into effect [today at noon](#). Clemson, Hanahan and Isle of Palms have [also passed](#) mask requirements.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON said last Wednesday that [mask ordinances are constitutional](#), citing home rule. Wilson said a court may find a mask requirement "arbitrary and capricious" in the absence of a public health emergency, but the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19 makes that kind of challenge unlikely.

A NUMBER OF SC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS have cancelled or delayed the start of voluntary summer sports workouts, including Greenville, Beaufort, Fairfield, Newberry, Orangeburg, Laurens and [some Midlands districts](#).

USC PRESIDENT ROBERT CASLEN signed the "[Campus Reopen and Risk Mitigation Plan](#)," which will require everyone living in on-campus housing to take a mandatory COVID-19 test. Any time students are outside of their dorm rooms — i.e. using the restroom and during a fire drill — they are expected to wear a mask. Campus events are limited to 50 people.

THE CITY OF GREENVILLE is offering [one-time, \\$1,000 grants](#) to owners of small businesses to help them recover from the economic effects of COVID-19. Eligible businesses include restaurants, bars, hotels, retail or those that are classified as personal services. The business must have a physical storefront within the city limits and its owner must live in Greenville County. The business must employ at least two people, but no more than 49. To be eligible for the grant, a business owner must also sign the Greater Greenville Pledge.

GREENVILLE COUNTY'S \$91 million in CARES Act funding will in large part be distributed to small businesses and nonprofits in the [form of grants](#) ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

P&C EDITORIAL: [SC restaurant program could make it less dangerous to dine out again.](#)

FEDERAL/NATIONAL SUMMARY – JUNE 29

OPERATION WARP SPEED [selected](#) an oral coronavirus vaccine to study. The vaccine's manufacturer, Vaxart, announced its participation in the government-funded trial.

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT [refused](#) to force Texas to allow universal vote-by-mail due to the coronavirus outbreak.

THE TRUMP administration [revised](#) its decision to cut federal support for five drive-thru coronavirus testing sites in Texas.

TREASURY released updated FAQs for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in the CARES Act. You can access the [FAQ sheet](#) on their [website](#) along with other related information. Please note page 8 states that “payments from the Fund may be used to meet the non-federal matching requirements for Stafford Act assistance...”

HHS, DOL, and TREASURY released [FAQs](#) regarding the requirement for coverage of COVID-19 testing under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Several notable clarifications and guidance, included in the FAQs, on the coverage of COVID-19 testing are [highlighted here](#).

CDC [updated](#) its list of underlying health conditions that might increase a person's risk of complications from COVID-19. Chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, type 2 diabetes, and a weakened immune system are among the conditions that might increase risk of severe complications from COVID-19. People with asthma, high blood pressure, neurologic conditions, and cerebrovascular disease and those who have a body mass index of 30 or greater also might be at higher risk of experiencing severe complications.

CMS [released](#) a trends [report](#) that provides data on the number of individuals who signed up for coverage on HealthCare.gov through a special enrollment period (SEP) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Enrollment data for April and May of this year show that thousands of Americans who lost job-based coverage due to COVID-19 are successfully taking advantage of existing special enrollment periods to obtain coverage.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION issued an [interim final rule](#) that addresses funding for private schools from the Education Stabilization Fund, created by the CARES Act. The new rule directs states to use one of two options to distribute funds: Provide Education Stabilization Fund dollars to all students — including those in private schools — or provide the funds only to low-income students in Title I schools.

FEMA published a new policy, "[Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)." This policy addresses the extraordinary challenges involved with operating a sheltering program during the pandemic, in a manner that limits the risk of exposure to or further transmission of the coronavirus.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Secretary Alex Azar warned Sunday that “the window is closing” to beat COVID-19. “We need to wear our face coverings if we’re in settings where we can’t social distance, particularly in these hot zones.”

A UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON health institute [projects](#) there would be 33,000 fewer fatalities by October if 95% of Americans wore masks.

AMERICAN AIRLINES [will no longer restrict](#) the number of seats sold on flights beginning July 1.

OTHER STATES/INTERNATIONAL

REUTERS: Transmission in states such as Florida, Texas, Arizona, South Carolina and California via [graphic](#).

NEW YORK, New Jersey and Connecticut now require travelers from CDC hotspots to [quarantine for 14 days](#) upon arrival. As of last week, targeted states with high infection rates included Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

NEW YORK [can't enforce restrictions on religious gatherings](#) to deter the spread of the coronavirus, after the Northern District of New York granted a preliminary injunction against the enforcement of executive orders by Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) and Mayor Bill de Blasio (D).

NORTH CAROLINA, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and Kentucky have all passed COVID-19 [liability protections](#) for businesses. The South Carolina General Assembly did not take up the issue when they returned last week.

TEXAS AND FLORIDA [ordered bars closed](#) and imposed new restrictions as cases surged. In Texas, restaurants may remain open for dine-in service, but at a capacity not to exceed 50% of total listed indoor occupancy, beginning Monday. Rafting and tubing businesses must close. Outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people must be approved by local governments, with certain exceptions. Governor Abbott ordered all licensed hospitals in four counties that include the state’s largest cities — Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Austin — to postpone elective procedures in order to protect hospital capacity for Covid-19 patients. He also urged all Texans to stay home. Unless absolutely necessary.

THE EUROPEAN UNION will leave Americans [off the list](#) of foreign travelers allowed into Europe.

FRANCE [reported](#) over 1,500 new coronavirus cases for the first time since May 30.