



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV; 803-898-9754
SITUATIONAL REPORT NO. 38, DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2020
EVENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. CDC REVISED GUIDELINES FOR QUARANTINE POST EXPOSURE TO COVID-19:

On December 2, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) informed Vice President Mike Pence and White House Coronavirus Task Force the CDC would issue new guidelines providing options for reducing the number of days close contacts should quarantine following exposure to a Covid-19 positive individual.

The new guidelines provide options for reducing the quarantine period for 7 to 10 days after exposure, down from the 14 days currently recommended. Individuals can end their quarantine after 7 days if they receive a negative COVID-19 test, or 10 days without getting tested. The revised guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

The CDC continue to endorse quarantine for 14 days and recognizes that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. In addition, the CDC continues to stress the importance of communicating and implementing mitigation measures to decrease the alarming number of coronavirus cases across the country. Mitigation efforts include mask usage, social distancing, avoiding crowds and frequent hand-washing.

II. DHEC HEALTH UPDATE-OPTIONS TO SHORTEN QUARANTINE FOR COVID-19:

The South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) released a health update communicating the options to reduce quarantine period post exposure to COVID-19. The health update can be found [here](#).

As our state's public health authority, DHEC mandates additional criteria for reducing the quarantine period to 7 or 10 day. Additional criteria that **must** be met is as follows:

- No clinical evidence of COVID-19 has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued **and**
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through Day 14 **and**
- Persons are counseled regarding the need to adhere strictly through Day 14 to all recommended strategies to mitigate spread (social distancing, hand hygiene, and mask wearing). They should be advised that if they develop any symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider and should seek retesting.

III. PRELIMINARY VACCINATION PLANNING:

DHEC is still finalizing COVID-19 vaccination logistical plans. It is likely that after the initial phase of vaccinating workers in health care settings caring for people critically ill with COVID-19, people with conditions placing them at risk for severe disease will be able to be vaccinated at their local pharmacy, hospital, health care provider, or DHEC clinics. A lot depends on the vaccine allocation how quickly our state can move from vaccinating providers in high-risk settings (e.g., caring for patients with COVID-19) to the next phase. Frequently asked questions regarding vaccination planning can be found [here](#).

IV. STARBUCKS IS GIVING FREE COFFEE TO HEALTHCARE WORKERS:

Starting Dec. 1, 2020 through the end of the year, frontline healthcare personnel working in the coronavirus pandemic response will be served a tall brewed iced or hot coffee at no cost at participating Starbucks stores. Those eligible for the offer include front-line health care providers and first responders, including: doctors, nurses, public health workers, pharmacists, dispatchers, fire fighters, paramedics, EMTs, law enforcement officers, dentists and dental hygienists, mental health workers (therapist, psychologist, social worker, counselor, etc.), hospital staff such as janitor/housekeeping/security, military on active duty, contact tracers, vaccine and pharmaceutical researchers, pilots, flight attendants, TSA, and medical researchers.

To learn more about Starbucks COVID-19 relief and support efforts click [here](#).

V. INFECTION CONTROL TIP-REINFORCE HAND WASHING ROUTINES

As COVID19 cases rise in SC, it is important that we re-double our efforts at infection control. One of the basic building blocks of infection control is proper hand-washing. Hand washing is an easy skill that can prevent us from getting sick and spreading germs to others, especially in the cold and flu months. Protect yourself, staff, and consumers by promoting and training on proper handwashing. Emphasize the particular times when everyone should wash their hands. For more information and resources on hand washing, see this [link](#).