



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

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SITUATIONAL REPORT NO. 41, DATE: JANUARY 22, 2021
EVENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

DHEC has opened vaccine phase 1.a. eligibility to parents who are home caregivers of a child who is medically fragile or complex or severely disabled. **(Requires a medical provider's signed attestation to confirm parent meets criteria.)**

DHEC updated their vaccination flowchart to reflect this change. To view the updated chart for phase 1.a. [click here](#).

Those included in phase 1.a. can now make appointments at DHEC vaccination sites. DHEC has set up page with links to its vax locator and a toll free number for appointments [here](#).

II. FRAUD ALERT FROM CVS-OMNICARE VACCINE PROGRAM

FROM CVS-OMNICARE:

To our valued partners in the COVID-19 Onsite Vaccination Clinic Program –

We have recently been made aware of a phone-based scam targeting LTC facilities in which a caller presents themselves as a CVS employee seeking to verify a COVID-19 Clinic Date. The caller then goes on to say that the facility is being awarded a \$100 Gift Card from CVS, and that there will be a \$4 fee to ship the award, for which specific financial information will be required.

This fraudulent proposal may also come through a voicemail message, asking you to call them back at a 1-866-XXX-XXXX number, where the same offer is made.

Please be aware that CVS Health is not offering financial awards to facilities participating in the Onsite Vaccination Program. Furthermore, representatives of CVS Health will never ask you for payment, no matter how insignificant, or require financial information for the administration of the clinics.

If you receive one of these calls, do not provide them with any information and report the number and circumstances to the [Federal Trade Commission](#). You can also call **1-877-382-4357**. The FTC is the primary federal agency that collects scam complaints.

III. EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY (PHE) AND EXTENSION OF SC APPENDIX K

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar extended the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) declaration for an additional 90 days, to April 21st, 2021. The renewal of the PHE means that 1135 waivers and a number of other emergency authorities will stay in place.

APPENDIX K EXTENSION: The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' (SCDHHS) ongoing response to the state and federal states of emergency related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), SCDHHS submitted a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend the Appendix K flexibilities for home and community-based waivers that were approved on [April 21](#) and [Sept. 22](#), 2020. The request was approved by CMS on Jan. 15, 2021, and will extend the anticipated end date of the previously approved flexibilities to no later than six months after the expiration of the federal public health emergency, unless SCDHHS determines they should sunset at an earlier date.

IV. SECOND DRAWS OF PPP LOANS NOW AVAILABLE

The Small Business Administration has opened up a second draw of the Paycheck Protection Program that was included in the economic stimulus act passed in December. If you received a first PPP loan in 2020, you may now be eligible for a second PPP loan. See details on the [SBA website](#).

V. CDC AND DHEC PARTNER TO PROVIDE INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING THROUGH PROJECT FIRSTLINE.

The new Project First Line (PFL) grant is a collaborative effort to provide frontline healthcare workers with the infection control training needed to protect them and their patients from infectious disease threats. Below is a link describing the project.

www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline

As our nation continues to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, DHEC would like to offer your frontline team members this important training. The first task of PFL will be completing a Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) of healthcare workers (across service lines and roles) to assess learning gaps relative to infection prevention and control.

Please encourage your staff to complete this brief survey. It should take about 15 minutes to complete. **The survey will end on February 1, 2021.** The survey can be found [here](#).