



# South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

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**SITUATION REPORT NO. 55, DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

**EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

## **I. COVID-19 CASES DECLINING IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

Daily COVID-19 positive case reports by DHEC have shown a declining number of cases over the past two weeks. Daily positivity percentages have also begun to decline as well. In addition, we have begun to see a decline in the number of COVID-19 cases requiring hospitalizations. You can find all of the latest numbers at the DHEC COVID -19 [dashboard](#).

## **II. ANCOR & DDSN PARTNER TO HOST WEBINAR ON CMS OMNIBUS VACCINATION FINAL RULE**

The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) partnered with ANCOR to host a webinar addressing tenets of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccine Interim Final Rule (IFR). A link to the two sets of slides for the webinar can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

## **III. DDSN PARTNERS WITH DHEC TO HOST INFECTION CONTROL WEBINAR**

On Friday, February 4, DDSN and DHEC held another COVID-19 webinar focused on the latest intelligence on the Omicron Variant and the latest CDC guidance. The slides from the webinar are posted [here](#). Information referenced in the webinar regarding how to access county positivity numbers can be found [here](#).

Later this week we will post the recording of the webinar to the DDSN website and the DDSN Training Library located in business tools.

## **IV. INFORMATION FROM DHEC ON CONTRACTED TESTING PROVIDERS**

If you are having trouble accessing testing locally, DHEC has contracted with Phi Life Sciences to provide testing capability.

If you have unmet testing needs contact Dorothy [dorothy@philifesciences.com](mailto:dorothy@philifesciences.com) or Kerry [Kerry@philifesciences.com](mailto:Kerry@philifesciences.com) at Phi Life Sciences for assistance. If you need further assistance in regard to any access to testing, contact the DHEC Testing ACC at this email address, [acc-testing@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:acc-testing@dhec.sc.gov)

**V. DHEC OFFERS VACCINE AND TESTING MOBILE CLINICS IN THE UPSTATE**

DHEC is offering the option for Upstate organizations to host a mobile Vaccination/ Testing clinic at your location. Requests may be made using this [form](#). Once complete, the form should be sent to Eric Ridings ([ridingde@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:ridingde@dhec.sc.gov)) while copying Daisy Schwarz ([schwardv@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:schwardv@dhec.sc.gov)) and Karen Butts ([buttskd@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:buttskd@dhec.sc.gov)). If you have any questions, Eric, Daisy, and Karen should be able to answer them.

**VI. CDC PUBLISHES THE LATEST UPDATE ON THE OMICRON VARIANT**

The latest CDC news digest contains new information on the Omicron variant and how you can protect yourself. There are other updates on vaccine booster shots and the latest COVID-19 surveillance from around the country. The digest can be found [here](#).

**VII. PROJECT FIRSTLINE WEB SITE AND VIDEOS UPDATED**

Project Firstline is the CDC's national training collaborative for healthcare infection control. The site contains videos and multimedia resources that can aid infection control Safety Coordinators in training their workforce on the very latest information on infection control. Recently a podcast co-produced with the American Medical Association exploring the intersection of equity and infection control have been added. The "Stories of Care" podcast can be found [here](#). The updated Project Firstline web site can be found [here](#).

**VIII. HHS EXTENDS THE COVID-19 PHE FOR ANOTHER QUARTER**

On Friday, January 14, the US Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS) extended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) for another quarter. This also extends the flexibilities granted with the PHE, although USHHS reserves the right to end any of the granted flexibilities at any time. You can find the link to the extension [here](#).