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**Situation report no. 53, date: January
13, 2022 event Covid-19 pandemic**

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South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV; 803-898-9754

SITUATION REPORT NO. 53, DATE: JANUARY 13, 2022

EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. COVID-19 CASES ARE RISING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

In the first 10 days of 2022, there have been over 104,000 new COVID-19 Cases reported in South Carolina. Positivity rates in testing have run between 20 and 30 percent state wide.

This rapid rise in cases underscores the need for vaccinations, transmission based precautions, and general awareness of potential spread of COVID -19.

The South Carolina COVID-19 Dashboard can be found [here](#).

II. DDSN PARTNERS WITH DHEC TO HOST INFECTION CONTROL WEBINAR

DDSN is partnering with the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to host our third infection control webinar, this one highlighting strategies to combat the surge of the Omicron Variant and provide education on the most recent Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) and DHEC guidance on options to shorten isolation and quarantine periods. The webinar is slated for later this month. A memorandum announcing the date, time, and link for participation will be published soon.

III. 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 or Kerry Kerry@philifesciences.com at Phi Life Sciences for assistance. If you need further assistance, contact the DHEC Testing ACC at this email address, acc-testing@dhec.sc.gov

IV. CDC ISSUES NEW GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL WITH COVID-19 INFECTION OR EXPOSURE

Recently the CDC shortened the recommended isolation and quarantine periods for COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.

You can find the CDC announcement of the recommended changes [here](#).

Guidance for Healthcare Personnel can be found [here](#). [Return-to-work criteria](#) changed for HCP infected with SARS-CoV-2 with considerations for staffing, including a link to the recently revised guidance to [mitigate staffing shortages](#)

V. CDC EXPANDS BOOSTER SHOT ELIGIBILITY FOR 12-17 YEAR OLDS AND UPDATES BOOSTER GUIDANCE

CDC now [recommends](#) that adolescents age 12 to 17 years old should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for adolescents aged 12-17.

You can find the complete CDC matrix of booster guidance updated on January 7, 2022, [here](#).

VI. CMS ISSUES FAQ PROVIDING CLARIFICATION OF RECENT VISITATION GUIDANCE

On January 6, 2022, CMS issued an FAQ clarifying the recent November guidance regarding visitation. These guidelines for visitation at nursing homes and community residential care facilities (and recommended for visitation at intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities) are subject to modification or revocation at DHEC's discretion. You can find the FAQ [here](#).