



# South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): [EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV](mailto:EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV); 803-898-9754  
**SITUATIONAL REPORT NO. 34, DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2020**  
**EVENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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## **I. DHEC UPDATE-PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER TO NURSING HOMES & CRCFS:**

On October 8, 2020, the Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) issued a public health order (No. COVID-19-5) mandating nursing homes and community residential care facilities (CRCFs) licensed their agency to submit a weekly report stating whether they are allowing visitation, and if not, providing the reason(s) for not allowing visitation. Facilities must also report the number of residents who participated in a visit in the previous (7) days. The Order can be viewed [here](#).

## **II. STATE LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN ON-SITE VISITS:**

Since March 2020, the South Carolina Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (SCLTCOP) has suspended in-person visits to residents in DDSN-contracted residential service locations. Effective October 1, 2020 the Ombudsmen will resume in-person visits in accordance with SCLTCOP issued guidance.

When entering residential service locations, Ombudsmen will comply with the provider agency's screening and hand hygiene protocols, maintain physical distance of at least six feet from others, and wear appropriate PPE. Ombudsmen will provide their own hand sanitizer and PPE. When possible, Ombudsmen will meet with residents outdoors. Ombudsmen are self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms, and they will not conduct visits when they are ill. Ombudsmen will be required to follow CDC guidelines regarding isolation and quarantine precautions if the Ombudsman has symptoms of COVID-19.

For more information, [click here](#).

## **III. DHHS EXTENDS COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services has been extended 90 days, it is now due to end on January 23, 2021. See Link.

## **IV. DHEC NEWS RELEASE-UPDATED GUIDANCE ON TESTING FOR COVID-19:**

DHEC has updated its interim guidance on testing and isolation requirements following testing. The update was made after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's September 18, 2020, update of guidance on testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including for those without symptoms of COVID-19. The news release and updated guidance can be found [here](#).

**V. CDC ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION ON IMMUNIZATION:**

The September meeting of the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices discussed the COVID-19 vaccine development so far and addressed prioritization of at risk populations. Here are the [Slide Decks](#) for each of the presentations.

**VI. DDSN COVID-19 REPORTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ):**

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) summary regarding COVID-19 reporting has been added to DDSN's website. Also attached to the FAQ are two reminders Alliant resumed on-site visits on October 1, 2020. The COVID-19 FAQ summary can be found [here](#).