



# 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. 32, DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 EVENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### **I. DHEC MEMORANDUM-NEW GUIDELINES FOR LIMITED OUTDOOR VISITATION:**

The South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) released new visitation guidelines for nursing facilities and assisted living facilities. The new guidelines provide pre-requisites for reconstituting visitation in long term care facilities. DHEC recommends agencies operating intermediate care facilities (ICFs) follow these guidelines. The guidelines are based on the most recent Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidance for reopening nursing homes, as well as visitation plans from other states. The DHEC memorandum and link to the guidance can be found [here](#).

### **II. NEW TOOL FOR REPORTING STAFF POSITIVE FOR COVID-19:**

Effective September 1, 2020, DDSN transitioned to a web-based tool that will serve as the method for providers to report and track suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff. Each provider has access to this system through the Executive Director and Incident Management System Data Entry staff. These staff have security to complete the tracking tool and utilize available reporting features within the SCDDSN Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) database. We believe this streamlined format will be a much more efficient method for reporting COVID-19 data.

Providers must start reporting and tracking suspected and confirmed staff COVID-19 cases to the HRS system on September 1. Reporting to the HRS system replaces the previous mandate to report positive COVID-19 testing for staff via IMS/Critical Incident module. It is not necessary to report previously reported cases to the new HRS system, however any outstanding reports dated on or before August 31 should still be completed in the IMS. Each agency's designated contacts (ED and Data Entry roles in IMS) has an account created for them with access granted to only the tracking form functionality.

The [User Guide](#) provides step-by-step instructions for entering reports for staff working in your agency. There are also instructions to assist you with running reports, as needed. Provider files have been pre-loaded with program types and licensed facility locations in order to expedite the reporting process.

DDSN has also partnered with HRS to develop a similar reporting tool for positive COVID-19 testing among people supported by your agency. This tool is in the final stages of testing and will be deployed for use in the near future.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Dalton, DDSN Quality Management, at [adalton@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:adalton@ddsn.sc.gov).

### **III. CDC GUIDANCE-HOW TO SELECT, WEAR, & CLEAN YOUR MASK:**

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) developed a web page to share information regarding selecting, wearing, and cleaning face masks. Research evidences masks help stop the spread of COVID-19 to others. Making a decision about selecting a mask can be confusing. This new web site provides tips on how to choose your masks. To learn more about selecting and caring for masks [click here](#).

### **IV. 844-SC-HOPES: A SC RESOURCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SUPPORT:**

The SC Department of Mental Health (DMH) established an anonymous support line to connect South Carolinians an experienced team of mental health and addiction counselors. Anyone in need of professional mental health support can call 1-844-SC-HOPES. This support line is can be especially helpful to frontline essential healthcare workers combating COVID-19. To learn more about SC HOPES [click here](#).

### **V. CDC GUIDANCE-INFLUENZA OR FLU VACCINATION:**

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from influenza or flu, and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like last season, CDC recommend that vaccination be offered by the end of October. For this season, CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provided additional information on what might be considered vaccinating too early. “Vaccinating early – for example, in July or August –may lead to reduced protection against influenza later in the season, particularly among older adults. Children 6 months through 8 years of age who need 2 doses should receive their first dose as soon as possible after vaccine becomes available to allow the second dose (which must be administered at least 4 weeks later) to be received by the end of October. For more information regarding influenza vaccination [click here](#).

### **VI. MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME IN CHILDREN (MIS-C):**

The CDC updated data to reflect the spread of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. Children with MIS-C may have a fever and various symptoms, including abdominal (gut) pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, or feeling extra tired. We do not yet know what causes MIS-C. However, many children with MIS-C had the virus that causes COVID-19 or had been around someone with COVID-19. To learn more about the spread of MIS-C [click here](#).

## **VII. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION E-LEARNING PLATFORM:**

The World Health Organization (WHO) established OpenWHO, an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. This e-learning platform enables agencies and organizations to offer a myriad of training to large numbers of frontline responders. This platform is accessible through your computer and mobile device. In addition, OpenWHO offers off-line downloads, peer discussion boards and live briefings from ongoing health emergencies. By the end of August 2020, the platform had issued more than 1 million Record of Achievement certificates, which are awarded based on quiz scores. In total, the site offers more than 200 active courses, about 80% of which offer a certificate. A record 126 courses have been produced for the COVID-19 response, covering 17 topics across 39 languages. Overall, the platform has more than 4.2 million course enrollments. To learn more about enrollment and training courses offered [click here](#).