



# 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. 37, DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2020**  
**EVENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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## **I. VACCINE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT CONTINUES THROUGH DHEC PORTAL**

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is urging providers interested in the DHEC COVID-19 Vaccination Program to submit applications as soon as possible.

The Provider Agreement and all related information can be found [here](#).

The agreement does require a Chief Medical Officer to sign Section A of the form. This can be a doctor contracted by the provider to oversee vaccine delivery. If you have any questions contact the DDSN Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at [EOC@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:EOC@ddsn.sc.gov)

## **II. DHEC HOLIDAY GUIDANCE FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES**

DHEC has released a set of resources to provide reminders and suggestions for safety at long term care facilities during the holidays. This [link](#) provides the guidance and resources for holiday safety.

DHEC strongly recommends that licensed community residential care facilities and nursing homes in South Carolina establish a policy addressing leave of absence for residents during the holidays. Here are DHEC's [guidelines](#) for residents who leave LTCFs during the holidays.

In addition the CDC has published a set of guidelines to assist Americans in safely celebrating Thanksgiving and the holidays. See [link](#).

## **III. CMS URGING NURSING HOMES TO FOLLOW ESTABLISHED COVID-19 GUIDELINES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

In advance of the approaching holiday season, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is urging nursing home staff, residents and visitors to follow established guidelines for visitation and adherence to the core principles of infection prevention. These guidelines include remaining six feet apart from individuals, wearing a face covering, and limiting the number of visitors in the nursing home at any one time. Adherence to these principles is critical in preventing the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in America's nursing homes. While the holiday season is typically a time for family and friends to gather, CMS implores staff, residents and visitors to exercise extreme caution this year.

To view the alert, please click this [link](#).

**IV. CDC WEEKLY PARTNER UPDATE CALL: RESILIENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

The CDC's weekly Partner Call share updates and the latest information on COVID-19. The November 30 call at 3:00 will focus on strategies to build resilience and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic and the holiday season. Register for this Zoom webinar at this [link](#).

**V. OSHA SENDS OUT RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN ENSURING EMPLOYEE SAFETY DURING THE PANDEMIC**

OSHA recently sent some helpful resources to help assist in protecting employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. First, is a [one pager](#) detailing lessons learned and frequently cited concerns during the pandemic. Second, is a set of [resources](#) recommending best practices for keeping workplaces safe during the holidays. Third, they have produced some printable "[quick cards](#)" with tips for work place safety during cold weather.

**VI. DHEC ISSUES FLU SURVEILLANCE UPDATE**

As we continue to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, the flu season is upon us. This week, DHEC issued new influenza surveillance for South Carolina. DHEC's Health Alert can be found [here](#). Up to date flu information including information on the flu vaccine, surveillance reports, downloadable or printable flu education materials and all other flu information from DHEC can be found [here](#).

**VII. SLIDES FROM THE NOVEMBER CDC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES (ACIP) NOW POSTED**

The November 23, 2020 CDC ACIP meeting focused exclusively on the preparation for the COVID-19 vaccines. The slide deck from the November meeting is now posted on the CDC website and can be found [here](#).