



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

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

SITUATION REPORT NO. 48, DATE: AUGUST 6, 2021

EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. DHEC & DDSN PARTNER TO PRESENT BEST PRACTICES TO COMBAT COVID-19

On August 17, 2021 at 10:00 am, Dr. Jane Kelly, Assistant State Epidemiologist and Rebecca Walker, Nurse Consultant in the Healthcare Associated Infection Section at Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC), will present a webinar to update and provide guidance on the latest infection control procedures that DDSN and its providers should be taking to guard against the spread of COVID-19 and the Delta Variant in particular.

All Executive Directors, Emergency Management Coordinators, Infection Control Nurses, and Residential Directors should participate in this webinar to hear the latest guidance recommendations from DHEC for the DDSN network. This information will greatly assist providers in keeping their individual served safe from spread of COVID-19 at a time when cases are spreading rapidly throughout the state.

The link for the webinar can be found [here](#).

II. DELTA VARIANT CAUSES CASES TO RISE STATEWIDE

In the past few weeks, COVID-19 positivity levels in SC have gone from a few hundred a day to over one thousand a day. This is due largely to the more contagious, Delta Variant of the virus infecting mostly unvaccinated individuals.

There has been a great deal of focus on the new CDC guidance on masks indoors. It is important to note however that the guidance has not changed for long term care settings. Please review the [CDC guidance for LTCFs](#) and your own infection control guidance as community positivity rates increase.

It is also important to remember to report COVID-19 cases for staff and consumers as critical incidents. Please email qualitymanagement@ddsn.sc.gov with any questions concerning reporting of COVID-19 positive tests for staff or consumers.

DHEC released a new Health Alert based on the upward trend in COVID-19 cases. The alert identified vaccination as the best way to protect everyone aged 12 and over from COVID-19 and urged an acceleration of vaccination efforts. You can find a link to the Health Alert [here](#).

III. COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

As of August 3, 44.9 percent of all South Carolinians have completed full vaccination. Additionally, 51.9 percent of all South Carolinians are now at least partially vaccinated. South Carolina has received over 4.9 million doses of vaccines of which 94.2 percent have been administered. You can view the DHEC vaccine dashboard [here](#).

DHEC is recognizing the importance of all types of immunizations for all ages during South Carolina Immunization Awareness Week, August 1-7, 2021. Information on Immunization Awareness Week can be found [here](#).

For those needing to find a COVID-19 vaccination site in their area, please see the DHEC [Vaxlocator](#).

IV. REMINDER THAT ALL ENTITIES APPROVED AS COVID-19 VACCINE PROVIDERS CAN ORDER VACCINES AND GIVE VACCINATIONS

If your agency has been approved by DHEC as a vaccine provider, you can order vaccine through VAMS and give COVID-19 vaccines to your residents and staff as you would flu vaccines. Local availability of vaccines has proven to increase vaccination rates, particularly for staff. If you have any questions about ordering vaccines, email yams@dhec.sc.gov.

V. OSHA EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD NOW IN EFFECT

This is a reminder that the OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard, published on June 21, 2021, went into full effect on July 21, 2021. The ETS requires COVID-19 vaccination education, ventilation, infection control, and a mini respiratory program among its elements for healthcare settings. This DHEC produced [Power Point](#) details the ETS requirements. A link to the OSHA ETS can be found [here](#).

VI. World Health Organization (WHO) EDUCATIONAL UPDATE ON “LONG COVID”

If you have an individual who has recovered from COVID-19 but are still experiencing certain symptoms, they could have “Post COVID-19 Condition” of “Long COVID”. The symptoms, how long they last, and treatments are discussed in WHO’s latest “Science in 5” episode. You can find the link [here](#).

VII. DHEC IS OFFERING FREE BINAX NOW COVID -19 RAPID TEST KITS TO CRCFS

DHEC is offering free BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card rapid test kits to all nursing homes and community residential care facilities that meet the requirements of the guidance below. These are rapid tests that can be read immediately. They are available for agencies that meet the requirements.

BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Guidance

- [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card: Fact Sheet for Health Providers](#)
- [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card: Distribution to Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities](#)
- [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card: Product Expiry Update](#)

If your facility meets the requirements contained in the guidance above, provide the following information via email to ACC-Log@dhec.sc.gov to request free test kits:

1. Number of Test Kits Requested. (Note: 1 kit contains 40 tests.)
2. Facility Name.
3. Facility Address.
4. Facility Phone Number.
5. Name of Facility Contact Responsible for Test and Receiving Delivery.
6. Facility Contact Job Title.
7. Facility Contact Phone Number.
8. Facility Contact Email Address.
9. Facility CLIA No.

Please feel free to contact acc-healthreg@dhec.sc.gov with any questions