

COVID-19 Update

July 15, 2020

2 p.m.

SCDC is continuing targeted coronavirus testing at institutions where infection rates are highest to identify and isolate patients who might be positive for the virus.

The testing is following best practices set out by national correctional groups and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Test results should be available within 72 hours.

Testing started last week in two dorms at Kirkland and Tyger River correctional institutions with a goal to identify and separately house inmates who are positive and negative. Staff at those institutions also will be tested.

About 300 inmates in two dorms at Kirkland Correctional Institution were tested last week. Of 150 inmates in one dorm, 26 tested positive. One inmate out of 157 in the second dorm tested positive. Those inmates are now in isolation away from others.

The inmates in the dorm where only one person tested positive will be retested today to make sure they are still negative. On Thursday, two additional dorms at Kirkland will be tested. The process will continue until all 1,573 inmates at the institution are tested.

Two units with 160 total inmates at Tyger River were tested Friday, with 78 inmates testing positive and 82 negative. The positive inmates have been separated and are in isolation.

Work continues today through Friday at Tyger River, testing staff, two additional units and retesting the inmates who previously tested negative. After results are received, the process will continue next week until all 894 inmates at Tyger River are tested.

Testing is starting Friday at MacDougall with two housing units, and it will continue until the institution's 473 inmates are tested. MacDougall's staff also will be tested next week.

This targeted testing is possible through a collaboration with the Medical University of South Carolina and funding included in the recently passed state budget.