

# COVID-19 Update

April 30, 2021

4:30 p.m.

The S.C. Department of Corrections is extending visitation, volunteer, work-release and labor crew suspensions until May 31, 2021.

No visitors or volunteers will be allowed to enter institutions, and labor and work crews will not go out into the community. All offenders will continue to get two free 5-minute calls each week, even those with telephone restrictions.

SCDC is offering COVID-19 vaccinations to inmates. So far 723 have been fully vaccinated, and 634 are awaiting their second shot. The process will continue next week, with mass vaccinations offered to all age groups.

The department understands the importance of visitation and maintaining close ties with loved ones.

While no decision has been made to require visitors to be vaccinated, the department encourages anyone who plans to visit an institution to get vaccinated for COVID-19.

To prepare for visitation to resume, the agency also is:

- Working on modifications to visitation rooms to accommodate COVID-19 best practices.
- Working with experts to finalize visitation protocols to ensure safety.
- Working on scheduling changes to streamline the visitation process.

Details will be announced when plans are finalized.

Video visitation is online at 14 institutions, and training is ongoing to offer it at the remaining seven SCDC institutions. Find more information about that [here](#).

All routine transfers between institutions continue to be suspended. Transfers for security and medical reasons will continue as needed.

Inmates will attend court and parole hearings virtually. If a court requires an inmate to attend a hearing in person, those requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If inmates are not available because of COVID-19-related circumstances, the courts will be advised.

These measures are put in place to ensure everyone's health and safety from the public health threat posed from COVID-19 and the potential impact on its staff, offenders, volunteers and visitors.

Department officials have been working closely with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control for the latest information and guidance about the spread of this virus. SCDC remains diligent in its efforts to protect offenders and staff. Future updates about COVID-19 will be posted on our website, [www.doc.sc.gov](http://www.doc.sc.gov)