

COVID-19 Update

Nov. 1, 2021

5 p.m.

The S.C. Department of Corrections is moving ahead with reopening visitation in phases, pending any new COVID-19 developments.

Visitation is expanding at minimum-security institutions to allow three visitors at a time. One must be an adult, and children of any age can visit. Vaccinated inmates in these institutions may receive up to three visits a month.

Limited in-person visitation for vaccinated female inmates expands to allow two visitors at a time, including a child of any age if accompanied by an adult. Inmates may have two visits per month.

The department continues to work toward opening visitation for other custody levels. More information will be released about this in the coming weeks.

Here are some general parameters for visitation. Detailed information for both phases can be found [here](#).

- Visitors, including children age 12 and older, must have a negative COVID-19 test within three days of their scheduled visit or provide a COVID-19 vaccination record card showing that they have completed the vaccination process. The vaccination date must be more than 14 days after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or 14 days after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Social distancing guidelines will be in place except for an embrace at the beginning and end of the visit.
- Vending machines will be accessible. There are no public restrooms.
- All visitors age four and older are required to wear a surgical mask, which will be issued by the institution.
- Upon arrival, all visitors will be required to have their temperature taken and complete a mandatory questionnaire about COVID-19.
- Visitors exhibiting any signs/symptoms of the COVID-19 virus or a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will not be allowed to enter.
- Visitors must schedule visits ahead of time. Details on how to schedule these visits can be found on the SCDC website [here](#).
- Visitors must be on the inmate's approved SCDC visitation list.

Video visitation is now offered at all institutions. Find more information about that [here](#).

SCDC continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations. So far the vaccine has been offered to all inmates, with 58 percent opting to become vaccinated.

All inmates continue to receive two free 5-minute telephone calls per week, even those inmates on telephone restriction or in RHU.

Volunteer and visitation suspensions at the remaining SCDC institutions continue through Nov. 30, 2021.

Routine transfers between institutions continue to be suspended. Transfers for security and medical reasons will continue as needed. Work crews from our minimum-security institutions resumed in mid-July.

Courts are returning to in-person appearances. The use of teleconference platforms for inmate appearances will be at the discretion of the presiding judge. Parole hearings continue to be virtual.

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.