

COVID-19 Update

July 2, 2021

6 p.m.

The S.C. Department of Corrections is continuing to offer limited in-person visitation for vaccinated inmates at Palmer, Livesay, Goodman and Manning correctional institutions.

Volunteer and visitation suspensions at the remaining SCDC institutions continue through July 31, 2021. Information about the next phases of visitation will be announced in the coming weeks. Work crews will restart in mid July.

Here are the parameters for the limited visitation:

- Visitors 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.
- 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](#).
- Visits will be one-on-one, meaning only one person can visit an inmate each week.
- Visits will be one hour long to accommodate as many people as possible.
- Visits will be offered on Saturday and Sunday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Time slots will be listed on the scheduling section of the website.
- Visitors must be age 18 or older.
- Visitors must be on the inmate's approved SCDC visitation list.

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

SCDC continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all inmates. So far the vaccine has been offered to 95 percent of the inmate population, with 55 percent opting to become vaccinated.

To prepare for full 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.

Video visitation is now offered at all 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.