



College and University Recommendations for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This advisory is to provide recommendations to healthcare providers in the university/college health setting that may have students or faculty traveling to or arriving from areas currently affected by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Recommendations are current as of March 4, 2020. This is an evolving situation and updated guidance will be provided as it becomes available.

Background

- Cases of 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) respiratory illness were first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and the novel Coronavirus was identified as the cause in January 2020.
- Since then, cases have been confirmed in multiple countries outside of China, including the United States (U.S.).
- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more serious diseases such as pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome.
- COVID-19 is a respiratory infection caused by a newly identified coronavirus that is responsible for the current outbreak and not previously known to cause human illness.
- Fourteen days is believed to be the longest time between when a person may have been exposed to novel coronavirus and when symptoms may begin (the incubation period).
- The chances of being infected are low unless a person traveled to geographic area with widespread and ongoing transmission of COVID-19 or had contact with someone who is a lab-confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.
- Transmission occurs primarily from person-to-person by contact with respiratory droplets that are coughed or sneezed by a person who is ill with the virus.
 - COVID-19 symptoms primarily include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
 - Other less common symptoms may include sore throat, chills, muscle aches, headache, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided kits to test for the virus that the South Carolina State Public Health Laboratory is able to perform. Testing must be coordinated through DHEC and confirmed by CDC.
- There is no vaccine or specific treatment for COVID-19 infection currently; care to relieve symptoms is supportive only.

Prevention Recommendations for Traveling and International Students or Staff

At this time, it is recommended to avoid all nonessential travel to geographical areas experiencing sustained, community-wide transmission. Current travel notices and information for specific countries can be found at [cdc.gov/travel/notices](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/notices).



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If an individual must travel to a geographical area experiencing sustained, community-wide transmission, please make sure to advise the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid contact with respiratory secretions.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Self-isolate if you become sick.

Recommendations for Returning Students and Staff

Goal: Identify – Isolate – Inform

Students and staff returning from traveling abroad will be subject to public health management strategies based on their potential COVID-19 exposure risk.

- All incoming flights to the U.S. from China are being routed to designated airports for entry health screening.
- Returning U.S. citizens who were in **Hubei Province** in the previous 14 days are subject to **mandatory quarantine** at designated centers for up to 14 days after arrival in the U.S.
- Returning U.S. citizens who were in any other part of **mainland China** (not Hong Kong or Macau) in the previous 14 days will undergo an entry health screening and be subject to **monitored self-quarantine** at home for up to 14 days with daily phone monitoring by state and local health departments to check for possible development of symptoms.
- Returning U.S. citizens who were in other geographical areas experiencing sustained, community-wide transmission will be asked to self-quarantine at home for up to 14 days while self-monitoring for signs and symptoms.
 - **Staff members** should not be allowed to work while under self-quarantine. However, if the staff member arrives at work, they should be placed in a surgical procedure mask, separated from others, and assessed for symptoms (i.e. by phone by the institution's health services).
 - If no symptoms are present, the staff member should be sent home to complete their self-quarantine and instructed not to return to work until cleared by DHEC.
 - If symptomatic, the institution's health services should maintain the staff member's isolation and immediately notify their regional DHEC office (see "How to Report" on page 4).



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- **Students**, if possible, should be sent home to complete 14 days of self-quarantine. They should not attend classes or other public activities while under self-quarantine. The student's living situation should be assessed to ensure measures are in place to prevent transmission of the virus should the student become symptomatic; based on the assessment, the student may need to temporarily be housed in a more controlled environment. However, should the student attend class or another function and become symptomatic, they should be placed in a surgical procedure mask, separated from others, and assessed for symptoms (i.e. by phone by the institution's health services).
 - If no symptoms are present, the student should be sent home to complete their self-quarantine and instructed not to return to class or attend other activities until cleared by DHEC.
 - If symptomatic, the institution's health services should maintain the student's isolation and immediately notify their regional DHEC office (see "How to Report" on page 4).
- If students, faculty, or staff who were in a geographic region with sustained, community-wide transmission develop symptoms while in quarantine they should seek medical care and evaluation. Please have them call ahead to the provider's office or emergency room and report recent travel and symptoms. Advise them to avoid contact with others and to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- With few exceptions, **foreign nationals** who were in any part of mainland China (not Hong Kong or Macau) or Iran in the previous 14 days are **not permitted entry** into the U.S.

Clinical/Symptom Screening

COVID-19 symptoms primarily consist of measured or subjective fever ($> 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or 100.5°F), cough, and/or difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. Other less common symptoms may include sore throat, chills, muscle aches, headache, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea. Testing for COVID-19 is specific and not included in commercially available respiratory viral pathogen panels and must be coordinated through DHEC. Also, there is no vaccine or specific treatment for COVID-19 infection; care is supportive only.

For any persons with a consistent travel history and any of the above symptoms, providers should immediately report to their regional DHEC office for further discussion and necessary control measures.



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Additional Resources

An attached screening tool is provided and can be utilized to assist with the screening process. Contact your regional DHEC office if your institution will need further assistance or guidance to conduct an appropriate symptom and exposure risk screen.

- DHEC List of Reportable Conditions: <https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-009025.pdf>
- DHEC's COVID-19 website: scdhec.gov/2019CoronaVirus
- CDC's COVID-19 website: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- CDC's Infection Control guidance: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html

PLEASE CHECK THESE SITES FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES CONTAINING THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE.



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How to Report a Suspect COVID-19 Case

Report to the DHEC Regional Epidemiology office (listed below) in the region in which the patient resides.

Immediately Reportable (TELEPHONE)

<u>Lowcountry</u>	<u>Midlands</u>	<u>Pee Dee</u>	<u>Upstate</u>
Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg	Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Kershaw, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York	Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg	Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600 N. Charleston, SC 29405	2000 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29204	1931 Industrial Park Road Conway, SC 29526	200 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29602
Office: (843) 441-1091 Fax: (843) 953-0051	Office: (888) 801-1046 Fax: (803) 576-2993	Office: (843) 915-8886 Fax: (843) 915-6502 Fax2: (843) 915-6506	Office: (864) 372-3133 Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights/Weekends: (843) 441-1091	Nights/Weekends: (888) 801-1046	Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845	Nights/Weekends: (864) 423-6648

What to Report

- Patient's name
- Patient's complete address, phone number, county, date of birth, race, sex, last five digits of social security number
- Physician's name and phone number
- Name, institution, and phone number of person reporting
- Disease or condition (suspect COVID-19)
- Date of diagnosis
- Symptoms
- Date of onset of symptoms
- Recent travel history (locales, arrival dates, departure dates, mode of transportation)
- Lab results, specimen site, collection date
- If female, pregnancy status
- Patient status: In childcare, food-handler, health care worker, childcare worker, nursing home, prisoner/detainee, travel in last 4 weeks

HIPAA: Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512)