



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Please note the Public Information Line (“PIPS line”) is fully functional from 8am to 6pm (same hours as DHEC Line). Please feel free to refer coronavirus related calls to 1-866-246-0133.

SC SUMMARY – APRIL 27

DHEC announced [142 new cases](#) of COVID-19, bringing South Carolina’s total to 5,613 cases across all 46 counties. Three additional deaths were reported, bringing the total death toll to 177.

As of today, the United States now has more than 1 million cases, with around 57,000 deaths. A total of 139,162 people are confirmed to have recovered. Globally, there are more than 3.08 million cases, with more than 212,000 confirmed deaths. At least [one study](#) suggests that the global death toll could be 60% higher than officially reported.

DHEC is helping to expand COVID-19 testing capabilities for the novel coronavirus COVID-19 by [deploying rapid-testing devices](#) and testing supplies to areas of the state where testing for the virus may be limited.

GOVERNOR MCMASTER issued [Executive Order 2020-29](#), which declares a state of emergency throughout the state and allows for the state’s response to COVID-19 to continue.

By law, the governor can declare a state of emergency for up to 15 days. His most recent executive order declaring a state of emergency was issued on April 12 and expired yesterday. The governor has now issued four executive orders declaring unique states of emergency based on the changing threats and challenges presented by the virus.

All existing executive orders issued by the governor will remain in effect with the new state of emergency, unless or until they are otherwise rescinded. While the state of emergency can last for 15 days, the governor can, at any time, rescind individual orders he has issued to respond to the virus’ impact to the state and he will do so in accordance with the advice and recommendations of the state’s public health experts.

ACCELERATESC’s “Governance” sub-group met yesterday. The group, chaired by Greenville mayor Knox White, was tasked with identifying challenges faced by state and local governments, educational institutions, emergency services and first responders. Notable points:

- All stakeholder groups are likely facing budgetary shortfalls – due to declining tax revenues in counties and municipalities, for example – but the total impact remains unclear.
- Potential local government solutions include suspending fees and late payment penalties, reducing taxes on businesses, flexibility on accommodations and hospitality tax revenue and passing previous year’s budgets with the option to amend once the full impact becomes clear.
- Regulatory flexibility was a central theme, including for law enforcement (re-hiring/promoting retirees in the absence of new recruits) and higher education (scholarship testing requirements).
- There was a substantial discussion on the need for rural broadband expansion for healthcare and E-learning.

ACCELERATESC’s “Protection” sub-group will meet today at 2:00 p.m. The group will identify protective protocols for practical implementation in the workplace and in public, testing and contact tracing, supplies of personal protective equipment, and long-term mitigation efforts to ensure economic revitalization. The meeting will be streamed at www.scetv.org.

SCDMV will expand operations beginning Monday, May 4, by reopening its 66 branches. Customers must have appointments to visit the SCDMV. Appointments can be made at SCDMVonline.com.

DSS: Childcare center closures have stabilized with 53% of licensed facilities closed.

CORRECTIONS: 43 staff members and nine inmates have test positive for COVID-19. Approximately 5,000 people work at the Department of Corrections, and there are 17,828 inmates in South Carolina. The agency’s response plan is available [here](#).

FOLLY BEACH, others [continue](#) beach closures.

BOEING will [reopen](#) its Dreamliner plant this week.

CLEMSON [cancels](#) in-person summer sports and camps.

FEDERAL/NATIONAL SUMMARY – APRIL 27

THE WHITE HOUSE [announced](#) a blueprint to enhance the public-private partnership for coronavirus testing. The partners include Walgreens, Walmart, CVS, Rite Aid, Kroger, Thermo Fisher, U.S. Cotton, LabCorp, Quest Diagnostics, and the American Clinical Laboratory Association. Included in the plans is also a blueprint to expand state testing. The Trump administration claims to have enough tests for 2 percent of the population.

DR. ANTHONY FAUCI [said](#) the United States should “at least double” coronavirus testing in the next few weeks before easing into reopening the economy.

CDC is recommending [social distancing for pets](#) (as in, keeping them away from other animals).

THE FEDERAL RESERVE [announced](#) an expansion of the scope and duration of the Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF). The facility, which was announced on April 9, will offer up to \$500 billion in lending to states and municipalities to help manage cash flow stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources: [FAQ](#), [Municipal Liquidity Facility Term Sheet](#)

THE U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION Betsy DeVos announced more than \$300 million in discretionary grant funds for states to create “learning opportunities” for K-12 and postsecondary learners in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. The CARES Act provides \$307.5 million for these discretionary grants, which the Department will divide between two competitions: \$180 million for the Rethink K-12 School Models Grant and \$127.5 million for the Reimagining Workforce Preparation Grant. The grants include the possibility of “microgrants” directly to families to spend on educational services, statewide virtual learning programs, and “new, field-initiated models” to provide remote education. For additional information about how to apply, click [here](#).

THE SBA is now accepting PPP loan applications. SBA released an [Interim Final Rule](#) on the program. Program guidance and related information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

THE FEDERAL RESERVE is [allowing](#) banks to eliminate limits and fees on monthly withdrawals from savings accounts.

MCCONNELL is [calling for changes](#) in the next relief bill to provide liability protection to health care workers, businesses and employees from lawsuits tied to inevitable new coronavirus outbreaks as the economy reopens.

- “We probably will do another bill. What I’m saying is, it won’t just be about money. The next pandemic coming will be the lawsuit pandemic in the wake of this one. So we need to prevent that now when we have the opportunity to do it.”
- On more funding: “I’m open to additional assistance. It’s not just going to be a check, though, you get my point? We’re not writing a check to send down to states to allow them to, in effect, finance mistakes they’ve made unrelated to the coronavirus.”

EXPERTS believe an effective COVID-19 vaccine could take longer than a year to 18 months to develop, approve and produce in mass quantities. [The New York Times reports](#) that Oxford University, however, has a potentially promising head start. Chinese scientists [predict](#) the virus will not be eradicated.

OTHER STATES/INTERNATIONAL

A MAJORITY OF STATES are now [making moves](#) to reopen.

GEORGIA/TENNESSEE: Masks and temperature checks are [new normal](#) at open restaurants.

CALIFORNIA is [stepping up enforcement](#) after big crowds hit the beaches.

UK: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson [called upon Britons](#) to remain patient and argued that it is too soon to loosen restrictions as it could cause a second spike of the coronavirus across the country.

- “I refuse to throw away all the effort and the sacrifice of the British people and to risk a second major outbreak and huge loss of life and the overwhelming of the [health system].”

ITALY: The Italian health ministry [reported](#) 1,739 new confirmed cases on Monday, the lowest single-day total of cases since March 10

RUSSIA surpassed 87,000 cases. Putin will [address the nation](#) today.