



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 19

DHEC announced 136 [new cases](#) of COVID-19, bringing South Carolina’s total to 4,377 cases across all 46 counties. One additional death was reported, bringing the total death toll to 120. The United States has 764,265 confirmed cases and 40,565 confirmed deaths. Around 71,012 people in the United States are confirmed to have recovered. Globally, there are 2.42 million cases and around 166,000 deaths.

There have been more than 100 positive tests every day in South Carolina since March 28. The daily death count has been trending downward since April 9, when 16 deaths were reported.

THE INSTITUTE OF HEALTH METRICS AND EVALUATION’S COVID-19 projections model [now predicts that the peak of new cases in South Carolina was on April 15 and the peak in deaths was April 9](#). Previous estimates had been for the end-of-April/beginning-of-May timeframe. The model suggests that social distancing measures may be relaxed around the beginning of June.

GOVERNOR MCMASTER will lift restrictions on certain retail stores this week. Any store that reopens must abide by previous directives, limiting occupancy to five customers per 1,000 square feet. The directive will not allow inside dining at restaurants or lift the governor’s “home or work” order.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE has created a video going into detail about unemployment benefits for the self-employed, as well as a shortened FAQ sheet for 1099, Self Employed, Contractors and Gig Workers. The bottom link is the latest version of the full FAQ sheet.

Links:

- [Unemployment for the Self Employed and More](#)

- [FAQ for The Self Employed](#)
- [Full FAQ Sheet](#)

P&C EDITORIAL: [“Coronavirus will reorder civic priorities across the Charleston region.”](#)

FEDERAL/NATIONAL SUMMARY – APRIL 19

PRESIDENT TRUMP said on Sunday that the official U.S. death toll from COVID-19 is likely to be closer to 60,000 cases than the 100,000 to 240,000 projected by the White House in March.

THE FEMA CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES page [provides a one-stop shop](#) to explore best practices and lessons learned across all levels of government, private sector, academic institutions, professional associations, and other organizations. HHS has a comprehensive [Novel Coronavirus Resources](#) page that highlights technical resources and information for the medical community and emergency responders.

Best practices are organized around five themes:

- *Helping People*, which includes best practices on topics such as crisis counseling resources and anticipating and attending to civil rights;
- *Government Operations* best practices such as public information and continuity of operations considerations;
- *Private Sector and Infrastructure*, which includes best practices for commercial trucking and food stores;
- *Recovery Planning and Implementation*, to include the newly released FEMA Disaster Financial Management Guide and economic recovery considerations; and
- *Medical Supplies and Equipment*, including best practices for the preservation of personal protective equipment while ensuring workers are protected.

Please visit www.coronavirus.gov for current health-related guidance and information on COVID-19.

AS OF APRIL 18, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 55.8 million N95 respirators, 77.1 million surgical masks, 6.1 million face shields, 11.4 million surgical gowns, 564 million gloves, 10,998 ventilators and 8,450 federal medical station beds.

CMS announced [new regulatory requirements](#) that nursing homes must inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. In addition, CMS will now require nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC will provide a reporting tool to nursing homes that will support federal efforts to collect nationwide data.

CMS [issued new recommendations](#) specifically targeted to communities that are in Phase 1 of the Guidelines for President Trump’s Opening Up America Again with low incidence or relatively low and stable incidence of COVID-19 cases. The recommendations update earlier

guidance provided by CMS on limiting non-essential surgeries and medical procedures. The new CMS guidelines recommend a gradual transition and encourage health care providers to coordinate with local and state public health officials, and to review the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies, workforce availability, facility readiness, and testing capacity when making the decision to re-start or increase in-person care.

CONGRESS this week will [likely vote on and pass](#) a package to refresh the Paycheck Protection Program. Likely will include: \$100 billion for hospitals, \$310 billion for Paycheck Protection Program and \$60 billion for separate emergency lending program for small business.

THE NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION is calling for Congress to create a dedicated recovery fund for the restaurant industry. According to the group, 8 million restaurant employees have been laid off or furloughed. The industry lost \$30 billion in revenue in March and is on track to lose an additional \$50 billion by the end of April.

SOME LAWMAKERS are [pushing to assist](#) local newspapers and broadcasters.

US OIL PRICES hit [20-year low](#).

THE NEXT 45 DAYS may be the most [critical in U.S. financial history](#).

OTHER STATES/INTERNATIONAL

MASSACHUSETTS: A [growing number of children](#) are being hospitalized with COVID-19.

TEXAS, VERMONT AND MONTANA will join South Carolina in [easing some mitigation restrictions](#) this week.

SPAIN: Spanish health officials [reported an increase of 410 deaths on Sunday](#), the lowest single-day rise in the death toll in nearly a month.

SOUTH KOREA: South Korea started to [loosen restrictions](#) on social distancing for churches and sporting events on Sunday, allowing the Korean Baseball League and other sporting associations to go on without spectators.

SWEDEN: In one of the few nations that has not issued a lockdown and has maintained a relaxed set of restrictions, Sweden's top epidemiologist said today that the country is [seeing "a sort of plateau" in cases](#). As of this morning, Sweden has 14,385 confirmed cases and 1,540 deaths