



Georgetown County, South Carolina

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency Management Department encourages people to continue to take precautions as COVID-19 numbers rise

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — During the month of June, Georgetown County has seen a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19 cases reported. As of noon today, there are 190 active cases among those who reside in the county – more than were added during the combined months of March, April and May.

“COVID-19 is still a serious issue here and across the nation, and if people don’t take precautions to stop the spread, it will get worse before it gets better,” said Brandon Ellis, head of Georgetown County’s Emergency Management Department.

Ellis said it’s imperative that residents and visitors follow guidelines from health officials, including wearing masks that cover the nose and mouth, staying at least 6 feet away from those who don’t live in the same household, staying home and away from others when sick, and washing hands frequently.

“Wearing a mask and just washing your hands or using hand sanitizer regularly are two of the easiest things you can do to protect yourself and those around you,” Ellis said.

The CDC recommends those over the age of 2 wear cloth face masks to help stop the spread of COVID-19 between individuals. To work effectively, masks must cover the nose and mouth, and fit securely under the chin and against the sides of the face. People should wash their hands before putting on their mask and keep the covering in place the entire time they are in public. Masks should be laundered regularly. Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth after touching the outside of your mask, including while removing your mask. Wash hands immediately after touching the outside of your mask.

Residents and visitors are reminded that COVID-19 can be transmitted even by someone who has no symptoms. While the virus may cause mild or no symptoms for one person, it can be life-threatening to another, so be considerate of those around you.

People should also be mindful of their mental and emotional health during this time. Pandemics are drawn-out and stressful events, particularly for those with underlying health conditions or who act as caregivers for someone with an underlying condition. Additionally,

social distancing can result in feelings of isolation and loneliness, which can increase stress and anxiety. Resources for taking care of your mental and emotional wellbeing are available at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

For additional information about COVID-19, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or call the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control Care Line at 1-855-472-3432. For those who would like to be tested for COVID-19, the St. James Santee Family Health Center has a COVID-specific testing site set up in Andrews at 411 E. Main St, which is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tideland Health is also hosting testing clinics around Georgetown and Horry counties.

Find resources for those impacted by COVID-19 at [gtcounty.org](https://www.gtcounty.org).

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