COVID-19 Update

Aug. 26, 2020
5 p.m.

The S.C. Department of Corrections is extending visitation, volunteer, work-release and labor crew suspensions until Sept. 30.

No visitors or volunteers will be allowed to enter institutions, and labor and work crews will not go out into the community. All offenders will continue to get two free 5-minute calls each week, even those with telephone restrictions.

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.

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.

In addition, SCDC will resume accepting and processing newly sentenced offenders from county detention facilities at Kirkland Reception and Evaluation Center on Sept. 1.

SCDC staff has worked hard to establish a system to isolate arriving inmates and identify those who might be infected with COVID-19. Inmates are required to be screened for symptoms before they leave the county detention facility, and they will be screened, tested and quarantined after arrival.

The department stopped receiving new inmates at Kirkland in April, then opened a temporary reception center at Lieber in May. That temporary center was closed in July when incoming inmates tested positive for COVID-19.

SCDC appreciates the patience and cooperation of county and local detention facilities during this time of transition and looks forward to reopening reception and evaluation functions at Kirkland.

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