South Carolina Department of Corrections

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For immediate release
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COLUMBIA, S.C. – The S.C. Department of Corrections has been monitoring the public health threat posed from COVID-19 and the potential impact on its staff, inmates, volunteers and visitors.

For this reason, SCDC is extending the visitation, volunteer, work-release and labor crew suspensions until April 30.

No visitors or volunteers will be allowed to enter institutions, and labor and work crews will not go out into the community. These measures are put in place to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Almost 15,000 people visit our institutions each month, and almost all of them are in close contact with at least one inmate and staff member. Suspending this interaction has certainly helped limit the risk to inmates and staff posed from COVID-19.

SCDC understands the value of family visits and volunteer programs. To help offenders stay connected to their families, our telephone provider GTL is extending its free call program. Every inmate, including those who have lost their telephone privileges, will have two free 5-minute phone calls a week through this period.

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.

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