



# South Carolina Department of Public Safety

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** SCDPS Personnel

**FROM:** Director Robert G. Woods, IV *RGW*

**DATE:** March 8, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Guidance on Facial Coverings, Telecommuting

On Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Henry McMaster issued [Executive Order 2021-12](#), which rescinded mandatory mask requirements in state government offices, buildings and facilities for individuals who meet the criteria established in the order or any further guidelines promulgated by the South Carolina Department of Administration in consultation with SCDHEC. Agency heads have been given individual discretion regarding the requirement for state employees to wear face coverings in the work place. Therefore, I have made the decision to continue requiring face masks for all SCDPS employees at this time – both within state buildings and for sworn personnel in the course of their enforcement duties. On June 30, 2020, I issued [guidance for SCDPS employees](#) requiring that masks be worn by our personnel. All employees should continue to follow the guidance in that memo as well as the [SCDPS Viral Pathogen Plan](#).

Another area covered by the March 5<sup>th</sup> executive order involves the requirement that state government employees return from a telecommute status. While most of our employees have been working on site, we have had pockets of employees telecommuting based on case counts in individual sections. As of March 15<sup>th</sup>, in accordance with the Governor's order, all SCDPS employees will be required to return from telecommute status except under special circumstances that have been worked out through our Office of Human Resources.

I want to remind all employees that today begins Phase 1B of the Vaccine Rollout. We shared information with you via News Break and by [Memo on March 5<sup>th</sup>](#) with regard to vaccination locations and opportunities. I would encourage you to review that information if you have not and use the SCDHEC Vaccine locator provided on News Break to help you find available opportunities. I know that some of you have already received your vaccine. While it is a personal decision, I would encourage our employees to consider taking the vaccine as we collectively work toward returning to a healthy work environment.

We are encouraged by the drop in the case counts and will continue to closely monitor community spread and revisit this issue as the vaccine rollout becomes more widely available to the public and as more of our SCDPS employees become immunized. As an agency, we will continue adhering to safety measures to reduce the likelihood of transmission in the workplace by reminding everyone to wash hands frequently and disinfect high touch areas within the office and by requiring all employees who are not feeling well to stay home. Thank you for your continued vigilance to help protect your personal safety as well as those we serve in the course of our duties.