



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

MEMORANDUM

To: SCDPS Command Staff
SCDPS Executive Staff

From: Robert G. Woods, IV, Acting Director *RW*

Date: September 28, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Amended Mobilization Order

SCDPS issued a mobilization order on March 18, 2020 and began operating within the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This action was taken to balance the personal safety of our employees with the public safety mission of the department. Throughout the department's pandemic response, virus case counts – both within the state and within the department – have been monitored and guidance from SCDHEC and the CDC regarding personal protective measures has been followed. Despite the high number of public contacts made by SCDPS employees, these efforts have minimized the impact of COVID-19 on the department's workforce with forty-one (41) total positive cases – including twelve (12) civilians – being reported from over 1328 total employees at this point in the pandemic.

In light of these trends and in order to address rising fatality numbers more effectively, calls for service, and aggressive driving, the previously issued COVID-19 mobilization order is hereby amended. With the issuance of this mobilization order, the SCDPS Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is deactivated and all personnel will adhere to the following guidance regarding law enforcement actions and work place re-entry:

- Enforcement efforts will no longer be limited to a focus on “egregious violations.” Instead our efforts will expand to those leading contributors in collisions and fatalities: speeding, safety belts and impaired driving as well as aggressive and distracted driving behaviors.
- Employees working in a temporary telecommute status will return to the office on a full-time basis, effective Monday, November 2, 2020. At that time, telecommuting options made available intermittently since March will no longer be available for non-essential/non-emergency personnel. (More detailed instructions regarding full work force re-entry will be provided in a separate memorandum from the Office of Human Resources.)

Otherwise, all SCDPS Divisions will continue operations in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Declaration and will adhere to all other guidance with regard to safely working in the COVID-19 environment:

- All divisions of the department will continue to utilize exposure countermeasures and precautions, as provided through the SCDPS Viral Pathogen Official Guidance, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the SC Department of Administration (SCDOA).
- All divisions of the department will continue, as feasible, to maintain social distancing measures among employees who are required to report to work. Face coverings will continue to be required in state government offices, buildings, and facilities in accordance with guidelines and procedures developed by the South Carolina Department of Administration in consultation with DHEC. (*Governors Executive Order 2020-50*)
- All divisions will discontinue submitting the COOP Brief to the Emergency Management Unit. Any COVID-19 exposure cases shall continue to be reported to the Office of Human Resources.

Your adherence to the SCDPS COOP was critical to the Department's success in ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of public safety services to the citizens and visitors of South Carolina. I greatly appreciate your devoted and conscientious efforts in response to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.