**Berkeley County First Steps Early Childhood Local Portal Resource Page for COVID-19**

*This page contains: links to important COVID-19 resources; for providers: updates from state agencies and resources for Head Start/Early Head Start programs; resources for families with young children.*

The health and well-being of children, families, and early care and education providers in our community is of utmost importance. Many residents are wondering what can or should be done to prepare for a possible increase in the number of cases of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) within our region. Helping control the spread of COVID-19 is everyone's civic responsibility. The resources below provide links to information to help keep all community residents, especially families, providers, and those who support young children, informed.

**In addition to their website (https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19), the South Carolina Department of Public Health has a statewide, DHEC CARE Line designed for general questions about COVID-19. Call 1-855-472-3432. Staff are answering calls 8 a.m.-6 p.m. every day.**

**For the Most Up to Date COVID-19 Information & General Guidelines**

* [The United States (U.S.) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) provides up-to-date information about prevention, symptoms, testing, and the current situation. *Follow CDC recommendations.*
* [The American Academy of Pediatrics](https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/) and [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx) are providing critical updates on COVID-19 for families and clinicians.
* [The World Health Organization (WHO)](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen) is providing "rolling updates" of COVID-19 guidance and recommendations.
* The Berkeley County School District website includes weekly updates from Superintendent Eddie Ingram for Berkeley County parents, families, and staff. Please visit <https://www.bcsdschools.net/>

For the latest update from Dr. Ingram please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bdjEBH9cgY&feature=youtu.be>

A list of Berkeley County School District Feeding Sites can be found here: <https://www.bcsdschools.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=890&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=65118&PageID=1>

* [The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)](https://ectacenter.org/topics/disaster/coronavirus.asp) built a webpage to house COVID-19 related information on funding and guidance to support the implementation of mitigation techniques in communities and programs.   
  <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/pdf/child_care.pdf>
* If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety or depression related to COVID-19 Please **If you need immediate assistance, the Crisis Text Line is open 24/7 - text NAMI to 741741. You can also visit:** <https://www.nami.org/getattachment/About-NAMI/NAMI-News/2020/NAMI-Updates-on-the-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Updated-Guide-1.pdf>

**Resources for Early Childhood/Child Care Providers**   
The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) provides the latest recommendations regarding the Coronavirus.  Currently child care providers in SC reserve the final decision on whether to remain open. Please visit <https://dss.sc.gov/child-care/> for more details.

DSS recommends child care facilities implement the following steps to help yourselves, your staff, and the children in your care stay healthy.

1. Make sure children, staff, and visitors are washing hands as directed by DHEC.

2. Clean and disinfect all surfaces within the facility regularly.

3. Practice social distancing when possible.

4. Consider changing your sign in procedures for parents and other visitors (e.g., move handoffs closer to the front door to minimize parents coming into the classroom space and avoid possible exposure to children and caregivers).

5. Limit visitors to the facility.

6. Limit communal sharing of food, and donations where possible.

7. Direct staff to stay home when they are sick, and direct parents to keep their children home when they exhibit symptoms of illness.

8. Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who become sick at daycare or arrive at your facility sick are sent home as soon as possible.  Keep sick children and staff separate from well children and staff until they can leave.

The Governor has declared a State of Emergency for the COVID-19 emergency, and emergency plans for child care licensing are in effect.  If you are a licensed child care center and can expand your capacity to serve the children of essential state and local services personnel and other children displaced by closures, please contact Child Care Licensing at 1-888-825-7174 or [childcare.disaster.response@dss.sc.gov](mailto:childcare.disaster.response@dss.sc.gov) as soon as possible.

* Emergency plans for child care licensing are in effect, including options for exceeding capacity to accommodate displaced children, foster children, or children of DSS staff and first responders. Licensed child care centers should review their emergency plan and notify DSS Child Care Licensing at 1-888-825-7174 if there are any changes to normal operations.
* Organizations with the ability to provide temporary child care may be able to operate without a license for a maximum of 30 in accordance with state law (63-13-440). DSS Child Care Licensing must grant approval for temporary child care arrangements. Call 1-888-825-7174 for more information.
* Parents should be aware that a family, friend or neighbor may only care for one unrelated family to be within the law. If they wish to care for more than one unrelated family, they must be registered and should call DSS Child Care Licensing at 1-888-825-7174.

**More SC DSS Resources**:

* For a list of reported Child Care closures by county click [**HERE**](https://scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/emergency-closures.aspx)**.**
* For SC Voucher Updates on COVID-19 click[**HERE.**](https://scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/covid-19-announcements.aspx#Voucher)
* Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Waivers can be viewed[**HERE**](https://scchildcare.org/news-and-announcements/cacfp-covid19-waivers.aspx)**.**

**If your child care business has closed or seen a drop in children attending and you're experience financial distress, these resources can help.**

* The U.S. Department of Labor has resources available to connect you to the unemployment program in your state: <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/unemployment-insurance>. If your state offers paid sick or family leave, information will be available from your state department of labor.
* The recently-passed Families First Coronavirus Response Act includes new provisions for some workers to receive paid sick days and paid family leave for some coronavirus-related reasons, and for businesses to receive support in the form tax credits for providing this leave. The U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the U.S. Department of Labor have released [initial guidance on these new benefits](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/treasury-irs-and-labor-announce-plan-to-implement-coronavirus-related-paid-leave-for-workers-and-tax-credits-for-small-and-midsize-businesses-to-swiftly-recover-the-cost-of-providing-coronavirus).
* **The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides resources that may help some providers seeking support, including the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.**[**You can learn more from the SBA**](https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources)**.**

[**https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources**](https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources)

[**https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/sc/columbia**](https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/sc/columbia)

Use this [small business crisis planner](http://startup.choosewashingtonstate.com/links/crisis/crisis-planner-home/) from Washington State Department of Commerce to get help in your emergency response planning.

* The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has issued memorandum [M-20-17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf), Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations. This memorandum is an update to the previous memo of March 9 [and expands to recipients](https://www.bdo.com/blogs/nonprofit-standard/march-2020/coronavirus-strikes-nonprofits) affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the pandemic:   
  <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf>
* [**The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service has now provided and posted nationwide waivers for a number of programs, including CACFP.**](https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19)
* [FEMA](https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/19/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-eligible-emergency-protective-measures) has launched its Public Assistance Program that allows certain private non profits to apply for assistance including: technical assistance, disinfection of public facilities, and distribution of food, water, medicine, and PPE

**From**[**ChildCareAware.org**](https://www.childcareaware.org/)**:**[**What Child Care Providers Need to Know About Corona Virus**](https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/coronavirus-what-child-care-providers-need-to-know)[**Should I Close My Child Care Program?**](https://www.sc-ccrr.org/media/3018/childcareclosure-flowchart.jpg)

**Download this Presentation for free here:**

[**https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/CCAoA%20Coronavirus-Webinar.pdf?hsCtaTracking=2bfe8093-0cdd-4af6-a867-701e4aad4d20%7C9007e04d-79ad-4ad8-9096-f34042993f4e**](https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/CCAoA%20Coronavirus-Webinar.pdf?hsCtaTracking=2bfe8093-0cdd-4af6-a867-701e4aad4d20%7C9007e04d-79ad-4ad8-9096-f34042993f4e)

**COVID-19 Updates & Resources from State Agencies**

An array of national and statewide early childhood educational materials and resource links on COVID-19 can be found at South Carolina First Steps <https://scfirststeps.org/coronavirus-2019-covid-19-updates-and-resources/>

**Resources for Spanish Speaking Families can be found here/** **Recursos para las familias que hablan español se puede encontrar aquí:**

* El Hospital Médico Universitario de Carolina del Sur en su esfuerzo por atender a toda la comunidad de la región ante los últimos acontecimientos del Coronavirus, ha puesto en servicio la Visita Médica Virtual en español. De esta forma ahora cualquier persona que sospeche y crea tener los síntomas del Coronavirus ó CONVID-19, podrá registrarse gratuitamente y en español para ser atendido desde la comunidad de su hogar. Para ingresar al portal digital en español del MUSC y hacer su respectivo registro haga un clic aquí <https://redcap.musc.edu/surveys/?s=TDH8HJ4KW3&fbclid=IwAR1ZK0dtoc0bIqRcraY9K4RUliYQFIFFdTNzpjWgCTZX4i_cg69HizVCcno>
* Línea DHEC CARE diseñada para preguntas generales sobre COVID-19. Llame al **1-855-472-3432**. El personal contesta las llamadas de 8 a.m. a 6 p.m. todos los días.
* Material informativo del DHEC acerca del COVID-19 , disponible en Español. <https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/educational-outreach-materials-2019-ncov?fbclid=IwAR1z6ufz78eoNv0WAacKUV4OpzTnKEotwsFd6XL0wP6rfkfhPbiBEV4vcb4>
* **SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center:** Este sitio web tiene excelente información en español para todos.

<http://www.scjustice.org/covid19/>

* Enlace de la Shifa Clinic (<https://shifaclinics.com/>) a asistencia alimentaria: [https://forms.gle/TpEcqi99EBsLYPUK6](https://forms.gle/TpEcqi99EBsLYPUK6?fbclid=IwAR0VscwSrLCFkduHKDl5i6tBRgKmigyX3M-gCJBr3eQvZIXQQ1Qxnbf3Ucc)
* Guide to COVID-19 for Immigrants in SC/ Guía de COVID-19 para inmigrantes en Carolina del Sur <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H-Mc6DxC5fQds5vlSQO-um-T74yYx9C0CHgnNBjhdrA/edit#heading=h.u23bgy5a28rp>
* La siguiente es una lista alfabética de los distritos escolares de Carolina del Sur y sus planes para la distribución de comida durante el cierre del COVID-19. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YzqS2QfCWLxjOW_fhdl_3pMbcghpG792Kk5vyGAOEVg/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR3FvA65hMT8eVINyb3rK4sc5q51DIBfDETJjwno4VzuOYbeBOA4NQv56uk#heading=h.jkixkef56gae>
* Control de rumores del coronavirus--El propósito de esta página de FEMA es para ayudar al público a distinguir entre rumores y hechos respecto a la respuesta ante el COVID-19. Por favor visite esta página con frecuencia. La misma será actualizada frecuentemente para ayudar a mantener al público informado de manera oportuna y con información correcta.  
  [https://www.fema.gov/es/coronavirus-rumor-control](https://www.fema.gov/es/coronavirus-rumor-control?fbclid=IwAR00ieLK2oMLlDZl4fqivrtX8PTc1qq1jpboQaQULMN9Cl_qED1yn5UyZLc)
* Taller Urgente / Taller de emergencia Conozca sus derechos El personal de NILC hablará el martes en un seminario web en español de "Emergencia KYR" titulado "Conozca sus derechos: la atención médica y los derechos de los trabajadores de comunidades indocumentadas e inmigrantes en la crisis COVID-19" con Fe en Acción ( anteriormente PICO) y NDLON, que será completamente en español y transmitido en Radio Jornalera. ¡Ayúdenos a amplificar con sus redes! Registración: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vJ0scemrqTItQvpydQ9qJuekrzIJ3pe4_w?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=a0da6c7b-df27-4d7a-bf3a-3ca7abe94239&fbclid=IwAR1CrvG_-ZSANEzscNL74r97ophU8-GJ8JHppkR5uIUDA0wn8q2vCCxaCZ8>
* Kit de herramientas del censo digital bilingüe de NALEO Educational Fund Este kit de herramientas incluye mensajes actualizados, modificaciones de operaciones más recientes y puntos de conversación bilingües, plantillas de explosión electrónica y cuadrados de redes sociales y leyendas de plantillas para su uso. [https://hagasecontar.org/resources](https://hagasecontar.org/resources?fbclid=IwAR1SIjbtiWRgpH6vSjPhamXTnl-ARcvHeETbvp51CEed-2zpfVwP0JUZMFg)
* una info importante sobre el corona virus en español de la American Public Health Association

<http://aphagetready.org/facts/GetReady-2019nCovFactSheetES.pdf>

* El enlace a la guía de ayuda para padres / cuidadores para ayudar a las familias a enfrentar la enfermedad coronavirus <https://www.nctsn.org/resources/parent-caregiver-guide-to-helping-families-cope-with-the-coronavirus-disease-2019-sp?fbclid=IwAR0AphCUrcGZ7oTeF85ocRHgks53UzLqU-sOKn1KyHDAnKUg_McIJ6wxHPM>
* Página de redes sociales a seguir que tiene información para las familias de habla Español
* Promotores de PASOs en Charleston-<https://www.facebook.com/Promotores-de-PASOs-en-Charleston-776963245747356/>
* Charleston, aquí estamos- <https://www.facebook.com/charlestonaquiestamos/>
* PASOs- <https://www.facebook.com/pasosprogram/>
* Charleston Immigrant Coalition- <https://www.facebook.com/CharlestonImmigrantCoalition/>

**National Resources from Head Start/Early Head Start that represent best practices during the COVID-19 Disaster can be found here:**

* [National Head Start Association - Head Start Responds to COVID-19](https://www.nhsa.org/coronavirus)
* [ECLKC - Coronavirus Prevention Response](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/physical-health/article/coronavirus-prevention-response)
* [ECLKC - Disaster Recovery Funding for 2018 and 2019 Disasters ACF-PI-HS-19-01](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/pi/acf-pi-hs-19-01)
* [ECLKC - General Disaster Recovery Flexibilities ACF-IM-HS-19-01](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-19-01)
* [ECLKC - Video: Managing Infectious Disease](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/blog/managing-infectious-disease?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=OHS%20Eblast%20Health%20Vlog%20Managing%20infectious%20disease&utm_content=OHS%20Eblast%20Health%20Vlog%20Managing%20infectious%20disease+CID_79ff34b3ddd0d8428441f3dd097bd653&utm_source=CM%20Eblast&utm_term=httpseclkcohsacfhhsgovblogmanaging-infectious-disease)
* [A Notice from the Administration of Children and Families](http://hsicc.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/j/AD95D02922176E6B2540EF23F30FEDED/49F0E2BA71023C25405DC10595964AA8)
* [Office of Head Start - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Flexibilities](http://hsicc.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/j/91F8634AED7F9C0B2540EF23F30FEDED/3326A28D9FFCB6156B5BE456C00C2519)
* [Office of Head Start - COVID-19 Wages and Benefits](http://hsicc.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/j/143E01E0599BEF9A2540EF23F30FEDED/3326A28D9FFCB6156B5BE456C00C2519)

**Resources for Families Supporting Young Children:**

* [CDC - Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: COVID-19 and Children](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html)
* [PBS Kids - How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus](https://www.pbs.org/parents)
* [PBS - 10 Tips for Talking About COVID-19 with Your Kids](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/10-tips-for-talking-about-covid-19-with-your-kids)
* [Save the Children - 7 Simple Tips on How to Talk to Kids about the Coronavirus](https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/coronavirus-outbreak/coronavirus-outbreak-how-to-explain-children)
* [ZERO TO THREE - Why are people wearing masks? Answering Your Toddler's Questions about Coronavirus](https://www.childcareresourcesinc.org/blog/zero-to-three-why-are-people-wearing-masks)
* [Zero to Thrive - Helping Young Kids through the COVID-19 Crisis](https://zerotothrive.org/covid-19-kids/)
* [Child Trends - Resources for Supporting Children's Emotional Well-being During the COVID-19 Pandemic](https://www.childtrends.org/publications/resources-for-supporting-childrens-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-pandemic)
* [UNC School of Education - UNC Team Creates Online Toolkit for Those Supporting Individuals with Autism During COVID-19 Epidemic](https://ed.unc.edu/2020/03/19/unc-team-creates-online-toolkit-for-those-supporting-individuals-with-autism-during-covid-19-epidemic/)
* [Teachstone - 4 Easy Activities to Support Learning While Your Child is At Home](https://info.teachstone.com/blog/4-easy-activities-support-learning-while-child-is-home?utm_campaign=COVID-19&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=85052481&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8jAgy5BGviSww4z-IJ7Hp1Sqs2cNodPjBjgdM-aboQ_BLDviBa2Pu6fKi9XUPlX_pB0pyD-gH8cMzV_tWx8-7sZscPGQ&_hsmi=85052481)
* [Teachstone - Use This Daily Schedule to Keep Children at Home Engaged](https://info.teachstone.com/blog/keep-children-engaged-while-at-home-with-a-daily-schedule?utm_campaign=COVID-19&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=85052481&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8jAgy5BGviSww4z-IJ7Hp1Sqs2cNodPjBjgdM-aboQ_BLDviBa2Pu6fKi9XUPlX_pB0pyD-gH8cMzV_tWx8-7sZscPGQ&_hsmi=85052481)

**Resources for Families:**

* [Erikson Institute's Fussy Baby Network's Warmline](https://www.erikson.edu/fussy-baby-network/) is available to support families struggling with their infant's crying, sleeping, or feeding
* CDC- Coronavirus for Pregnant or Breastfeeding Mothers [**You can learn more HERE.**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ua0ZguDlui2JZkokOK8zvjAgrOx2bgwIYMOOrnxEF7tQfsTTgtdZEnZ0i1W8Q-pmQCcrhmNOrxqYMpn--9Kz2KVS8e5uxwx80wWEk7ak6bJVHqv8r9oMCF6jqdv0SsFhiimqGR1apnKlqg6bNShBHS7sR4HQ2HwgiMxkE7kZjcLa8ypekg6-kv528SmxAo9JmHJZn08lkliYFXY8YRGGd3TB3ogTKrvY&c=G6oK-XRYqdj-cAEw9t1ajUoUpWhv45b8_wYNtA47T1s0opjJKZ9WpA==&ch=VWW5HjedSgrO4BiVSFDUcTYcHYAIVyjlX4Y4bCQ6IrdwVyglca733g==)
* [CDC - Managing Anxiety and Stress](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html)
* [CDC - Get Your Home Ready: Checklist for Individuals and Families](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/checklist-household-ready.html)
* [CDC - Get Your Household Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html)
* [CDC - Information on COVID-19 and Pregnant Women and Children](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html)
* [Child Care Aware of America - Stay Up To Date on the Latest Coronavirus News & Resources: for Parents](https://info.childcareaware.org/coronavirus-updates#parents)
* [The National Child Traumatic Stress Network - Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope with COVID-19](https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/outbreak_factsheet_1.pdf)
* [ZERO TO THREE - Young Children at Home during the COVID-19 Outbreak: The Importance of Self-Care](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3262-young-children-at-home-during-the-covid-19-outbreak-the-importance-of-self-care)
* [ZERO TO THREE - Tips For Families Coronavirus](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3210-tips-for-families-coronavirus)

**Resources in the Tri-County resources that may offer help with financial difficulties related to COVID-19:**

* Trident United Way 211: <https://sc211.org>
* SC THRIVE: You can call the SC Thrive Contact Center to apply for SNAP and Medicaid benefits over the phone. The SC Thrive Contact Center can be reached Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at (800)-726-8774. <https://scthrive.org/>
* LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK:Food Pantry Locations https://www.lowcountryfoodbank.org/findhelp/