



georgetown COUNTY CHAMBER

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 TRENDS

As of Wednesday, March 25, 2020 @ 6 pm

WEBINAR THURSDAY, MARCH 26 @ 9:15 am

- **Communicating with Impact & Empathy During a Crisis with Jeff Black**

--Thursday, March 26 at 9:15 am

--Click [HERE](#) for log in information. No need to register, simply join us online. (Complete log – in information is also provided at the end of this email.)

Jeff Black, Founder and CEO, **BlackSheep**, will lead a webinar and discussion about ways to **communicate with your staff and the public** during this time of crisis. Strategies learned will not only help you navigate through the uncertainty of COVID-19, but are applicable in any crisis situation. Black's clients include **Kellogg's**, **GE**, **NBC**, **American Airlines** and **Lockheed Martin**, to name a few. He has coached clients as they prepared to appear on programs such as **The Oprah Winfrey Show**, **60 Minutes**, **ESPN** and the **Food Network**. This is a rare opportunity learn from one of the **best in the business**. You'll leave the webinar ready to implement strategies the minute you get up from your desk.

As of Wednesday, March 25, 2020, SC's **Governor Henry McMaster requests all out-of-state visitors to South Carolina who plan to spend two or more nights in the state to self-quarantine for two weeks immediately upon arrival.** The request is intended to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus.) The state's priority is the health and safety of all individuals. South Carolina is taking bold steps now in order to keep everyone safe and eventually return to a preferred destination in months to come.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- **US Small Business Administration Loans**: South Carolina small businesses and nonprofits that have suffered economic injury as a result of COVID-19 are now eligible to apply for up to \$2 million in disaster loan Assistance from the US Small Business Administration. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from today's webinar with William Furman from the SBA. Go to www.SBA.gov to learn more.
- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**: To download a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from the webinar with Tom Winslow and Jessica Benson from Goldfinch Winslow, click [HERE](#). Want to know the basics? [Click here](#). Need more info? [Click here](#).
- **Senate Poised to Pass Historic Federal Stimulus Bill**

The US Senate is expected to pass H.R. 748, Phase 3 of the federal response to COVID-19. Phase 3 is an estimated **\$2 trillion stimulus plan** that includes economic relief for individuals, both small and larger businesses, the healthcare industry and state governments, among many other industries and entities. This economic recovery plan is one of the largest in American history and, as such, includes a long list of provisions. The latest summary of the key provisions affecting individuals and businesses can be found [here](#). Please note that this summary is updated as of today at 3:00 pm. A final summary will be provided after the passage of the bill by both the Senate and House.

- \$350 billion for forgivable small business loans.
- Expansion of unemployment benefit coverage and amount
- \$500 billion for corporate aid
- \$1,200 checks for most single filers and \$2,400 for most joint filers
- \$340 billion for healthcare-related programs
- \$150 billion for state and local governments

The US House is expected to pass the bill, but will have to determine whether a vote can occur without members having to travel back to Washington, D.C. The SC Chamber Team will continue to provide the latest information on the Federal Stimulus Bill and the potential impact it will have for you and your business. (Source: SC Chamber of Commerce)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPDATES

Tonight from SCDHEC, South Carolina now has 424 people who have tested positive for Coronavirus with 7 deaths. By County, positive cases are located in Kershaw (63), Richland (59), Greenville (50), Charleston (52), Beaufort (26), Lexington (18), Horry (20), Anderson (19), York (18), Sumter (10), Orangeburg (9), Spartanburg (9), Darlington (8), Lancaster (6), Pickens (6), Clarendon (5), Florence (5), Berkeley (5), Dorchester (4), Abbeville (3), Chesterfield (3), Fairfield (3), Aiken (2), Georgetown (2), Greenwood (2), Jasper (2), Lee (2), Oconee (2), Calhoun (1), Chester (1), Colleton (1), Dillon (1), Edgefield (1), Marion (1), Marlboro (1), Newberry (1), Saluda (1), Union (1), Williamsburg (1).

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The SC Department of Employment and Workforce is encouraging impacted employers to consider filing on behalf of their employees to streamline the process for **filing unemployment claims** for all parties involved. Employer Filed Claims are more convenient and eliminate the step of an employer having to verify a worker's claim.

SC State Parks are closed Thursday, March 26 for cleaning, but will reopen Friday, March 27. No new cabin or campground reservations with arrival dates between now and May 7 will be made. Reservations that were already made with arrivals between now and May 7 are currently being honored. All programming and tours have been suspended through April 30.

Stay-at-Home Orders in Other Areas of SC, NC and Beyond

- Yesterday, the City of Charleston and Mecklenburg County, a border county in North Carolina, issued Stay-at-Home orders following the path of several states (17 to date) and other local jurisdictions around the country. The Charleston order takes effect tomorrow, March 26th, at 12:01 am and is effective for 14 days. The Mecklenburg order takes effect tomorrow at 8:00 am and is effective until April 16th. The North Carolina Governor's Office is making plans for a statewide order, to avoid the likelihood of multiple orders in other large cities in N.C. As of today, South Carolina is not considering such an order.

Here are the key provisions of both local orders affecting businesses:

- Individuals must stay in their homes except to work at or conduct business at an essential business.
- Non-essential business and operations must cease.
- Essential businesses must practice social distancing; employees stay at least 6 feet apart.
- It is unlawful for an individual to refuse to follow the order willfully, and law enforcement officers must enforce the order.
- Both ordinances use the [Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency guidance](#) as a basis to define “essential business.”
- The City of Charleston ordinance includes a list of 11 broad categories of essential businesses.
- The Mecklenburg County ordinance includes specific lists of businesses and entities separated into categories (1) Essential Businesses and Operations, (2) Healthcare and Public Health Operations, (3) Human Services Operations, (4) Essential Government Functions, and (5) Essential Infrastructure.
- The ordinances do not provide a process for a business to request an exemption from the Stay-At-Home order and show they are essential or require clarification.
- *Read the City of Charleston ordinance [here](#) and the Mecklenburg County ordinance [here](#).
- *Both ordinances state that the Essential Businesses List (and other parts of the ordinance) will be reviewed regularly and may be revised. **If you are a business operating in these jurisdictions, please review the ordinances carefully to determine if your business is deemed essential. If your business is not on this list, then you can contact the local offices for more information.** (Source: SC Chamber of Commerce)

EDUCATION

March 24, 2020

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Henry McMaster and South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman today released the following joint statement announcing that South Carolina’s schools will remain closed for the duration of the month of April:

“At this time, students, parents, and families **should plan for South Carolina’s schools to remain closed through the month of April.** Our dedicated teachers and school administrators have done a tremendous job in making it possible for our students to learn at home. We understand that the prospect of schools remaining closed for an extended period of time places stress and strain on parents and children. Rest assured, if there is any way to safely open our schools earlier, we will do that, but schools must remain closed to protect the health and safety of South Carolinians.”

On March 15, Governor McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-09, which closed public schools for students and non-essential employees through March 31st. The governor will issue an additional executive order to extend the K-12 school closures through the month of April in the coming days.

As his previous executive order did, the governor's executive order will apply to the state's public colleges, universities, and technical colleges, and encourage those institutions to maintain existing plans to provide instruction through virtual learning. <https://governor.sc.gov/>

Commission on Higher Education: Colleges and universities to allow students to continue classes online: [https://www.che.sc.gov/HOME/coronavirus\(COVID-19\)INformation.aspx](https://www.che.sc.gov/HOME/coronavirus(COVID-19)INformation.aspx)

Student Loans: The Federal government announced that **payments on federally held student loans may be placed on hold and interest will be waived** for at least 60 days. Click [HERE](#) for information. For privately held students loans, contact your lending institution.

SC Public Schools: The U.S. Department of Education has suspended student assessments and accountability requirements normally scheduled for the spring. SCDE is working with the vendors of college entrance such as SAT, ACT, credit such as AP and workforce readiness assessments to explore innovative approaches to continue with these assessments. Click [HERE](#) for information.

Georgetown County School District: Click [HERE](#) for information on feeding sites.

The district is also working to offer WiFi from area high schools which accessible from parking lots. They are also working to identify sites throughout the county to help with internet delivery.

Georgetown County

Tidelands Health issues urgent appeal for community sewing help with supply of N95 respirators: As part of its ongoing response to the COVID-19 coronavirus threat, Tidelands Health is issuing an urgent appeal to community residents who can sew. Click [HERE](#) to see how you can help.

Huntington Beach State Park will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, March 25 & 26. Visitors with cabin and camping reservations will still be allowed to check in. Click [HERE](#) for information.

Beaches in Georgetown County, with the exception of Huntington Beach State Park, are currently open, but are subject to the Governor's Executive Order about crowds gathering. Please help keep our beaches open by adhering to the Governor's order.

The **weather forecast** for the weekend is beautiful – great for enjoying outdoors and our beaches. Georgetown County Sheriff Carter Weaver reminds us that law enforcement officers will be actively enforcing the **Governor's order banning gathering in groups larger than 3** individuals. Social distancing will help minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Georgetown County Government has announced that all documents left in county drop box or received via mail will be held in 24-hour quarantine.

Georgetown County Public Library branches are closed, but **wi-fi services** are still available. You are invited to park at the any library branch and access free wi-fi. Andrews, Carvers Bay and Andrews do not require passwords; password for Waccamaw Branch is 123 for the duration of the closure. Also, the Georgetown Branch is offering free books in front of the library weekdays 10 am – 4 pm. Please only take a book or two. Remember to maintain social distancing. Note: The library cannot accept book donations at this time, even for the free book table.

Delivery of Prescription Medicines: Beginning Monday, March 23, deputies with the **Georgetown County Sheriff's Office** will begin delivering prescription medications to older adults and other county residents identified as high-risk to complications from the coronavirus, according to Sheriff Carter Weaver. Click [HERE](#) for information.

Waccamaw Community Foundation: Click on [this link](#) for information about how individuals, businesses, etc. may donate funding to the COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Fund, as well as information about how nonprofits can apply for grant funding.

Restaurants: For a list of local restaurants offering take-out, delivery and/or curbside service, go to www.VisitGeorge.com for more information. Information is updated throughout the day. Send changes or updates to jdye@visitgeorge.com.

Chesterfield (3), **TRENDS WE ARE SEEING**

- The United Nations has launched its \$2 billion Global Humanitarian Response Plan in the fight against coronavirus.
- **States continue to take extreme measures to flatten the curve of COVID-19.** See a full list of state and city COVID-19 orders [here](#).
- **Countries around the world continue to implement measures to flatten the curve of COVID-19.** For example, **Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha** announced a state of emergency until April 30. More examples below.
- **Corporate social responsibility efforts are continuing in response to COVID-19, along with local neighbors helping neighbors.** Most recently, **Equifax** announced it is working with consumers and businesses to help mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their credit scores. (Source: Atlanta Metro Chamber of Commerce)
- **Hawaii issued an emergency proclamation** ordering residents to “stay-at-home” in addition to the mandatory 14-day quarantine for all incoming visitors and returning residents — which is set to go into effect Thursday.
- Stores with special hours designated for seniors to shop:
 - **BI-LO:** Stores and pharmacies will dedicate the hours of 8am to 9am, Monday – Friday, to seniors and those most at risk of COVID-19.
 - **Publix** is designating Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 7 to 8 a.m., as senior shopping hours for customers age 65 and over. This change in hours will begin Tuesday, March 24, and continue until further notice. Publix Pharmacy will also be open at 7 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to serve our senior population."
 - **Lowe's Foods** is also designating Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 7-8 am, for Seniors and others who are more vulnerable to the virus.
 - **The Fresh Market:** Monday through Friday, 8 – 9 am for seniors and other individuals most at risk
 - **Walmart** announced it is introducing an hour-long senior shopping event March 24 that will be held every Tuesday through April 28 for customers 60 and older. The designated hour will start one hour before the retailer's 5,000-plus U.S. stores open.
 - **Target's** more than 1,800 stores nationwide will "reserve the first hour of shopping each Wednesday at stores nationwide for vulnerable guests," the

company said, adding it is "encouraging other guests to plan their shopping trips around this timeframe."

- **Dollar General** also is dedicating time for senior shoppers – the first hour of shopping each day.
- **Kroger** Mondays through Thursdays, 7 - 8:00 a.m., designated shopping hours for seniors over 60 and high-risk individuals

ACCURATE & VALUABLE RESOURCES

During this time of heightened stress and anxiety, we ask that you please refer to **official sources** for information.

- **Governor Henry McMaster**, latest news and executive orders: <https://governor.sc.gov/>
- **Tidelands Health**: <https://www.tidelandshealth.org/>
- **SC Department of Environmental Control**: <https://scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- **SCDHEC Care Line** at 1-855-472-3432.
- **Online COVID-19 Screenings: MUSC** <https://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html>
- **Centers for Disease Control**: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>
 - **Guidance for businesses and employers**. This page includes strategies for employers to use now, and information about planning for a potential U.S. outbreak.
- **SC Department of Employment and Workforce**: <https://dew.sc.gov/individuals/apply-for-benefits>
- **SC Department of Commerce**: <https://www.sccommerce.com/doing-business-here/join-community/emergency-preparedness>
- **South Carolina Department of Insurance**: <https://www.doi.sc.gov/948/COVID-19>
- **Small Business Administration**: <https://www.sba.gov/page/guidance-businesses-employers-plan-respond-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- Small Business Development Centers are good resources of information and can offer one-on-one counseling. <https://www.coastal.edu/sbdc/> or call 843.349.4010.
- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**: <https://www.uschamber.com/>
- Visit scdmh.net for stress, anxiety and mental health resources from the S.C. Department of Mental Health.

WEBINAR INFORMATION

Communicating with Impact & Empathy During a Crisis with Jeff Black
Thu, Mar 26, 2020 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM (EDT)

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