



georgetown COUNTY CHAMBER

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 TRENDS

As of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 @ 6 pm

Your Georgetown County Chamber will host two webinars with useful information to help you navigate these uncertain times as it relates to COVID-19 and your business.

- **Small Business Administration Webinar to discuss SBA disaster loans**
--Wednesday, March 25 at 10 am
--Click [HERE](#) for log in information. No need to register, simply join us online. (Complete log – in information will be provided at the end of this email.)
- **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 will be 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.

EDUCATION (More Education News on pp. 3-4)

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/>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- People who have passed through or left **New York City** the past few days **should place themselves into 14-day quarantine**, according to the experts on the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Dr. Deborah Birx said about 56 percent of the new cases throughout the country are coming out of metro New York area. Click [here](#).
- **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 the paper application form to see what is needed before applying online. Go to www.SBA.gov to learn more.

- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act:** Want to know the basics? [Click here](#). Need more info? [Click here](#).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPDATES

Tonight from SCDHEC, South Carolina now has 299 people who have tested positive for Coronavirus with 5 deaths. By County, positive cases are located in Kershaw (58), Richland (45), Greenville (39), Charleston (36), Beaufort (22), Lexington (19), Horry (19), Anderson (16), York (11), Orangeburg (8), Darlington (8), Lancaster (7), Sumter (8), Clarendon (5), Florence (5), Berkeley (4), Spartanburg (4), Dorchester (3), Aiken (2), Fairfield (2), Georgetown (2), Greenwood (2), Jasper (2), Lee (2), Oconee (2), Abbeville (1), Calhoun (1), Chester (1), Chesterfield (1), Colleton (1), Dillon (1), Edgefield (1), Marlboro (1), Newberry (1), Pickens (1), Saluda (1).

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.

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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: GCSD will begin delivering meals via school bus for students ages 18 and under beginning Tuesday, March 24: Click [HERE](#) for announcements from Georgetown County School District and to confirm times, dates and locations for meal delivery and pick up. This is in addition to the school pick-up sites.

- Mitney Project in Georgetown: 11 – 11:15 am
- Georgetown Housing Authority, Maryville South Campus on Hinds St.: 11:25 – 11:40 am
- North Santee Community Center on Mt. Zion Rd.: 11:50 am – 12:05 pm
- Andrews Recreation Center on MLK Dr.: 11:35 – 11:50 am
- Choppee Recreation Center on Choppee Rd.: 11:45 am – 12 noon
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Parkersville Rd. in Pawleys Island: 11:30 – 11:45 am

Meals may be picked up from school sites from 11:30 – 12:30 Monday – Thursday; children must be present in order to receive the meals.

- **Andrews attendance area:** Andrews High School and Sampit Elementary
- **Georgetown attendance area:** Georgetown Middle School, McDonald Elementary, Maryville Elementary and Kensington Elementary
- **CHANGE – PLEASE NOTE: Carvers Bay attendance area:** Carvers Bay Middle feeding site is being moved to Carvers Bay High School.

- Browns Ferry Elementary, Carvers Bay High School, Pleasant Hill Elementary and Plantersville Elementary –
- Waccamaw attendance area: Waccamaw Elementary.

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.

For students who have not yet picked up their packets or devices, please call your school for instruction.

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 orders.

Georgetown County Public Library branches are closed, but wi-fi services are still available You are invited park at the Waccamaw branch and use wi-fi from your vehicle – remember to maintain social distancing. Cal 843-545-3623 for the password.

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.

Georgetown County Library System: Library Branches are currently closed to the public, but your libraries continue to serve the community.

To renew books, call your library branch at the numbers listed below or renew online at <https://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov/get-book>.

- Georgetown Branch (843) 545-3300
- Andrews Branch (843) 545-3621
- Carvers Bay Branch (843) 545-3515
- Waccamaw Branch (843) 545-3623

You can still drop off books in the book drops and they will be checked in daily. Please note that fines are frozen while the Libraries are closed.

If you have a library card, you can get free e-books for your computer or portable device. The shortcut to the Library's "Get a Book" webpage is <https://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov/get-book>.

Although the libraries are closed to the public, all four of the Georgetown County Library's branches continue to serve as **WiFi hot spots**. Feel free to park and use the bandwidth between the hours of 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. Georgetown, Andrews, and Carvers Bay Libraries do not need a password. If you are in the Waccamaw parking lot, please call staff at (843) 545-3623 and they'll give you a password.

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.

TRENDS WE ARE SEEING

- China has announced it will [lift the lockdown on Wuhan](#) on April 8.
- International Olympic Committee member Dick Pound announced that the Summer Olympics in Tokyo will be [postponed](#).
- Atlanta [Mayor Bottoms signed a 14-day stay-at-home order](#) due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to the executive order, Atlanta residents are directed to stay inside their

homes. The exemptions to the order include essential city services and businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, laundromats, parks, the Atlanta BeltLine and restaurants serving takeout.

- **Countries around the world continue to implement measures to flatten the curve of COVID-19.** U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson issued a stay-at-home order, sending the country into lockdown to fight COVID-19. India Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a 21-day nationwide lockdown starting at midnight on Wednesday.
- Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks will be closed to visitors until further notice during the coronavirus outbreak.
- 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.
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WEBINAR INFORMATION

SBA Coronavirus Resources for Small Business – Learn how the SBA is assisting small business, the requirements of the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan, and how to apply
Wed, Mar 25, 2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (EDT)

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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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