



# Senate Finance Committee

September 3, 2020



# COVID-19 Situational Update

*As of Sept. 1:*

- **Cases:**

- 118,116 confirmed; 1,730 probable

- **Deaths:**

- 2,626 confirmed; 131 probable

- **Hospitalizations:**

- 7,830 total; 894 currently



# DHEC's COVID-19 Response by the Numbers

- **929 mobile test events** held, and **248 events** scheduled through October for a **total of 1,177**.
- **1,018,379 test results** received; of all tests reported, **21.8% resulted at DHEC's Public Health Lab**.
- **2,087 staff** have worked **551,437 hrs.** during the response. On an avg. weekday in July, **822 staff** were working on COVID-19.
- Conducting **10,074 virtual inspections** of Retail Food Establishments to maintain food safety standards.
- Working with CMS to award grant funding to **129 nursing homes** to ensure residents and loved ones can stay connected through communications technologies.

# State of Testing

*As of Sept. 3, S.C. has performed over 1 million tests.*

- While overall testing has increased, there was a decrease in testing of 92,953 from July to Aug.
- **Potential Reasons:**
  - Testing demand/fatigue
  - Changing Federal landscape

# State of Testing

*DHEC recognizes the importance of increased testing across the state.*

- Beginning this month, we will:
  - Provide testing opportunities at least **once per week** in each county and **two per week** in larger counties.
  - Provide testing **daily** in large metropolitan areas.
  - Increase the average number of daily testing opportunities from **7.7 events a day**, to **12 events a day**.
- Challenges for DHEC to overcome
- Testing landscape:
  - Proliferation of **testing options**.
  - Future **screening tools**.

# Contact Tracing

*DHEC has been conducting case investigations and contact tracing since the first reports in the state.*

- **Mission:** to ensure that people who are exposed to a contagious person are provided education on next steps and how to seek testing.
- DHEC currently has:
  - **700** case investigators
  - **230** contact monitors
  - **600 more** contact monitors trained.

# On the Horizon

***DHEC is committed to working with its partners to expand testing across our state.***

- Current priorities for testing include:
  - Rural and under-resourced communities
  - Testing at nursing homes and CRCFs
  - Correctional facilities
  - Businesses

# Saliva Testing

*Saliva testing is a PCR test that uses saliva as the test sample instead of swabs.*

- UofSC is currently using an in-house developed method.
  - EUA is pending before it can be used by adoption by other labs. DHEC is eager to attempt to adopt the methodology in our lab.
  - DHEC is committed to assist in increasing UofSC capacity.
- DHEC has applied for authorization to use the Yale EUA approved method.
  - Can be readily adopted using our current equipment.
  - Anticipate **2-3 weeks** to bring online once authorization granted.



# Priority Budget Requests

## Jul – Dec 2020

- **Projected total cost:**  
\$196M-\$330M
- **Act 116, CRF and other federal funds cover:**  
\$119M
- **Remaining funding needed:** \$77M-\$211M

## Jan – Jun 2021

- **Projected total cost:**  
\$190M-\$290M
- **Federal funds cover:** \$73M
- **Remaining funding needed:** \$118M-\$217M

*\* Range reflects fluctuating case counts and testing levels through the end of the fiscal year*  
*\* Projections do not include the potential costs associated with vaccinations*



# Projected COVID-19 Additional Needs: Jul - Dec 2020

Category	High Estimate	Low Estimate
Testing	\$191,411,380	\$61,212,130
Education Campaign	\$7,000,000	\$3,000,000
Personnel	\$12,828,029	\$12,828,029
Quarantine	\$350,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$211,589,409</b>	<b>\$77,040,159</b>

*In an effort to be responsible with funding allocated to the agency, DHEC is requesting incremental disbursements in order to cover actual costs incurred.*



# Projected COVID-19 Additional Needs: Jan - June 2021

Category	High Estimate	Low Estimate
Testing	\$187,637,560	\$93,887,560
Education Campaign	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000
Personnel	\$20,751,723	\$20,751,723
Quarantine	\$150,000	\$50,000
Contact Tracing	\$1,200,000	\$0
PPE & Medical Supplies	\$1,900,000	\$700,000
Transport & Storage	\$158,000	\$0
Tech, Staff Support, Cleaning, Other	\$875,000	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$216,672,283</b>	<b>\$117,589,283</b>



## Stay Connected

