



# SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



December 14, 2021

### Missed last week's memos?

All SCDE weekly memo communications are archived [here](#). Individual memos can be found on the [School District Memoranda Archive](#).

## COVID-19 CASES

### COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

As of December 8, 2021, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- 249,014 student quarantines
- 54,954 student isolations
- 6,398 staff quarantines
- 6,490 staff isolations

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 12/8/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 12/12/2021)

## COVID-19 TESTING

### Updates for COVID Testing in Schools

#### Holiday Testing:

DHEC continues to strongly encourage schools to either maintain or implement testing over winter breaks in anticipation of increased disease transmission due to holiday travel. This is also a preventative measure schools can take should there be an increase due to the Omicron variant. DHEC strongly encourages holding a testing event approximately 2 days prior to return from winter break for staff and students. Even if your schools don't currently use vendors for testing and if they don't plan on continuing vendor testing, your school or district can request a one- or two-day testing event with a vendor. This will allow schools to test and identify COVID cases prior to school return to allow for a safer return from winter breaks. If you'd like to work with a vendor to schedule a short testing event, please contact Brandi Hagman at [acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov).

## Testing Vendors

DHEC continues to offer free testing vendor services. However, ThermoFisher will no longer be servicing Midlands regions schools. Updated vendor contact information is included below. If your district is interested in or in need of vendor testing services, please contact Brandi Hagman at [acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov). You may also contact the vendor directly, but please copy [acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov) for awareness.

**Upstate Region:** Mako Medical, Nolan McBride, (704) 517-4245, [jarant@makomedical.com](mailto:jarant@makomedical.com), [nmcbride@makomedical.com](mailto:nmcbride@makomedical.com)

**Pee Dee Region:** Tempus, Nick Petit, (312) 972-7223, [nick.petit@tempus.com](mailto:nick.petit@tempus.com)

**Lowcountry Region:** Ambulnz, Anthony Capone, (617) 600-4201, [acapone@ambulnz.com](mailto:acapone@ambulnz.com), [eblech@ambulnz.com](mailto:eblech@ambulnz.com)

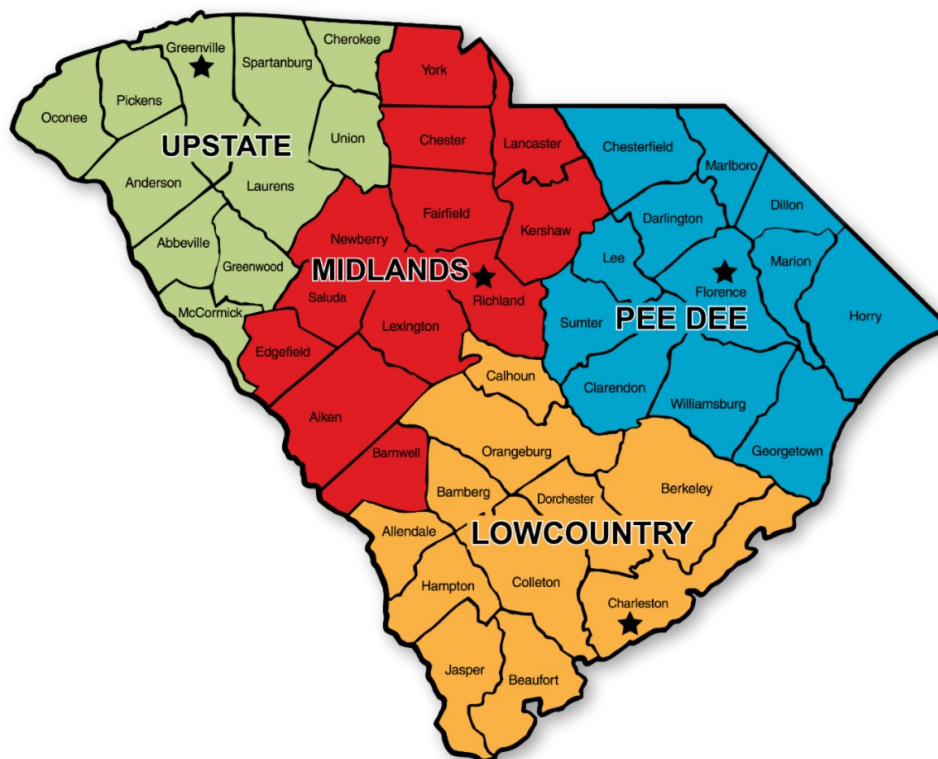
**Midlands Region:** CIAN Diagnostics, Sam Mullapudi, (240) 422-4164, [sam@ciandx.com](mailto:sam@ciandx.com)

## Operation E.T.

Operation E.T., the free program that provides free pooled PCR testing for the purpose of routine screening of staff and students is now also offering the CUE NAAT system as a diagnostic test. This will allow for testing of staff and students who are either symptomatic or who are eligible for shortened quarantine when a test is needed outside of the regular testing routine. If your district or school is interested in participating in Operation E.T., please contact [acc-testing@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:acc-testing@dhec.sc.gov).

## Pediatric COVID Vaccines: Virtual Town Hall

If a district is interested in hosting a virtual town hall about the pediatric COVID vaccine, please contact either Beth Poore ([pooreb@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:pooreb@dhec.sc.gov)) or your regional DHEC Public Health contact. The virtual town halls can feature a DHEC medical consultant and possibly a local pediatrician to provide updated information on COVID-19 and the pediatric vaccine. A virtual town hall can be provided even if a district or school isn't hosting a clinic.



# EARLY LEARNING & LITERACY

South Carolina Return to Learn Technology Grant

# Learning Engagement Coach for Families Training Sessions

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Read to Succeed District Liaisons, Family Engagement Liaisons, Early Childhood Coordinators

**CONTACT:** Wendy Burgess, [wburgess@ed.sc.gov](mailto:wburgess@ed.sc.gov)

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) continues to support family engagement with regional Learning Engagement Coaches (LECs) for families as part of the South Carolina Return to Learn (SCR2L) Technology Grant. These LECs focus on working with families in South Carolina public schools, including charter schools, non-public schools, and home school families. The focus of this work is to support families of early learning students and disadvantaged learners.

[South Carolina Return to Learn Technology Grant Learning Engagement Coach for Families Training Sessions - Memo](#) PDF (197 KB)

## STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES

### Strategies for Addressing Learning Loss

**AUDIENCE:** District Superintendents, Principals, Attendance Supervisors, Student Services Directors

**CONTACT:** Sabrina Moore, [smoore@ed.sc.gov](mailto:smoore@ed.sc.gov)

The Office of Student Intervention Services (OSIS) will continue its Attendance and Learning Loss professional development opportunities, beginning in January 2022. The trainings are designed to help administrators and educators develop strategies to improve student attendance and minimize the long-term effects associated with COVID-related learning loss.

New to the series are *Problems of Practice* sessions, during which participants will be invited to submit specific questions to a panel of Attendance Works experts and other practitioners. The panel will provide strategies for addressing some of the most challenging attendance and learning loss issues.

[Strategies for Addressing Learning Loss - Memo](#) PDF (196 KB)

