



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



November 2, 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 October 27, 2021, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- 227,593 student quarantines
- 51,873 student isolations
- 4,525 staff quarantines
- 4,660 staff isolations

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 10/27/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 10/31/2021)

COVID-19 TESTING

Operation Expanded Testing

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) was recently notified of an update and addition to Operation Expanded Testing (Operation E.T.). Operation E.T. is a federal program provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in which a lab, Affinity-Eurofins, is providing free pooled **polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** testing to all K-12 schools in South Carolina.

This program is designed for routine asymptomatic screening. The program is now adding a bundled option that includes providing the CUE test as a free diagnostic option for symptomatic testing and/or testing for shortened quarantine. CUE is a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), a type of molecular test that is highly sensitive and specific (more accurate) in asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals. CUE is administered using a shallow nasal swab and delivers results in 20 minutes.

The PCR tests provided by Affinity-Eurofins are also a shallow nasal swab that are designed to be self-administered by individuals aged 3 years and older. The lab processes these tests, delivers results to the school and to individuals (or a guardian), and reports to DHEC. Results are typically received within 24 - 36 hours. This program can be layered with other DHEC-coordinated testing regimens like other vendor testing or rapid testing grant agreements to develop the program that best suits the needs of each school or district. If your school or district is interested in Operation E.T. or other testing programs, please email acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov for assistance with the process.

[Operation Expanded Testing Overview](#)

DHEC Contracted Vendor Testing

The holidays are rapidly approaching and DHEC would like to encourage you to proactively consider COVID-19 testing for your staff and students. Last year, the state experienced increased disease transmission and an increased demand for testing due to holiday travel. If your district does not have a testing program in place, please remember that all K-12 public schools have access to vendor testing services at no cost to the district or school through DHEC and the ELC Reopening Schools Grant. The holiday season may be a great time to pilot a short-term program to provide additional prevention and mitigation.

Districts may enroll at any time this school year. Please keep in mind that it takes 2-4 weeks to establish a vendor testing program. If you are interested, you may either contact Brandi Hagman directly at acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov or contact the vendor assigned to your region and copy acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov for awareness. The vendor and region information is below.

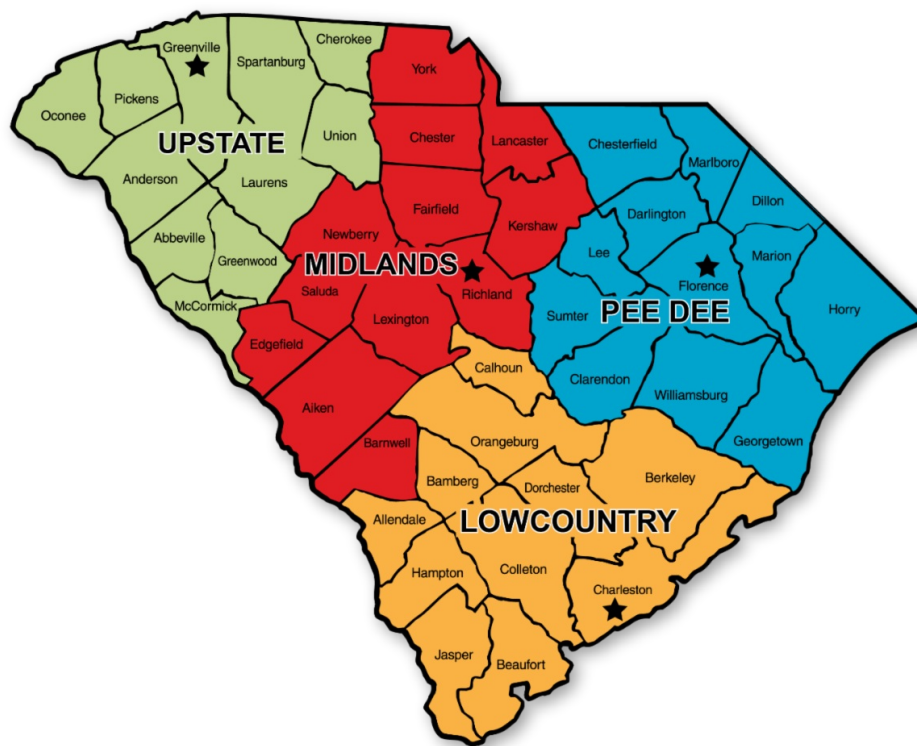
Upstate Region: Mako Medical, Nolan McBride (nmcbride@makomedical.com)

Midlands Region: Fisher Scientific, Mackenzie Varga and Melanie Fletcher (mackenzie.varga@thermofisher.com, melanie.fletcher@thermofisher.com)

Pee Dee Region: Tempus, Nick Petit (nick.petit@tempus.com)

Lowcountry Region: Ambulnz- RRT, Cory Turner and Matt O'Leary (cturner1@ambulnz.com, moleary@ambulnz.com)

For districts and schools already using a testing vendor, we encourage you to communicate with your vendor and with your staff and students' families about any changes to the testing schedule to included changes in dates and times, holiday closures, and how closures might impact test result delivery. Vendors can continue to provide testing at school and district locations even while schools are dismissed for breaks. It is helpful to educate staff and student families on being testing early prior to any travel. Your vendors can help you with coordination and messaging. We hope this helps your districts enjoy a safer holiday season and a safer return to learning after breaks.



TECHNOLOGY

South Carolina School District Technology Plans

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District HR Directors, District Instructional Leaders, District Information Technology (IT) Leaders, District Information Security/Privacy Leaders
CONTACT: Valarie Byrd, vbyrd@ed.sc.gov

Although formal technology plans are no longer required for the E-Rate program, South Carolina law requires that:

- Districts must have a technology plan;
- The plan must address technology competency standards for certified staff;
- Districts must require certified staff to demonstrate technology proficiency as part of each person's professional growth and development plan; and
- Those standards and plans must, at a minimum, align to the ISTE teacher standards.

See S.C. Code Ann. § 59-26-30(A)(5); S.C. Reg. § 43-205.1.V.C; Proviso 1A.20 (2021-22).

For this school year, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has prepared a short-form [technology plan](#) for district use. It asks for a summary of districts' 2022-24 plans related to the key elements of the state-level plan and the certified staff technology proficiency requirement. Districts have the option to use a different format for filing their technology plan so long as it meets the legal requirements. In 2023 and 2024 the SCDE intends to ask whether plan updates are needed, and the SCDE has a project underway that in the future would consolidate technology plans with other required plans to streamline reporting and implementation. The SCDE requests that all plans be submitted by **Friday, December 10, 2021**.

[South Carolina School District Technology Plans - Memo](#) PDF (180 KB)

School District Website and Electronic Document Training

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers, District Human Resource

Directors, District Instructional Leaders, District Special Education Directors, District Technology Directors, Web Access Coordinators (WAC)

CONTACT: Valarie Byrd, vbyrd@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and the United States Department of Education-Office for Civil Rights (USDOE-OCR) are offering a live virtual training series on how school districts can make their websites and electronic documents accessible. The two sessions of this trainings will occur November 30 and December 14 from 3:00–4:00 p.m. The training is at no cost to districts. Participants can earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

[School District Website and Electronic Document Training - Memo](#) PDF (133 KB)

South Carolina Department of Education
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