



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



December 7, 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 1, 2021, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- 231,192 student quarantines
- 52,957 student isolations
- 5,558 staff quarantines
- 5,978 staff isolations

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 12/1/2021)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 12/5/2021)

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.

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. You may also contact the vendor directly, but please copy acc-schools@dhec.sc.gov for awareness.

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

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

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

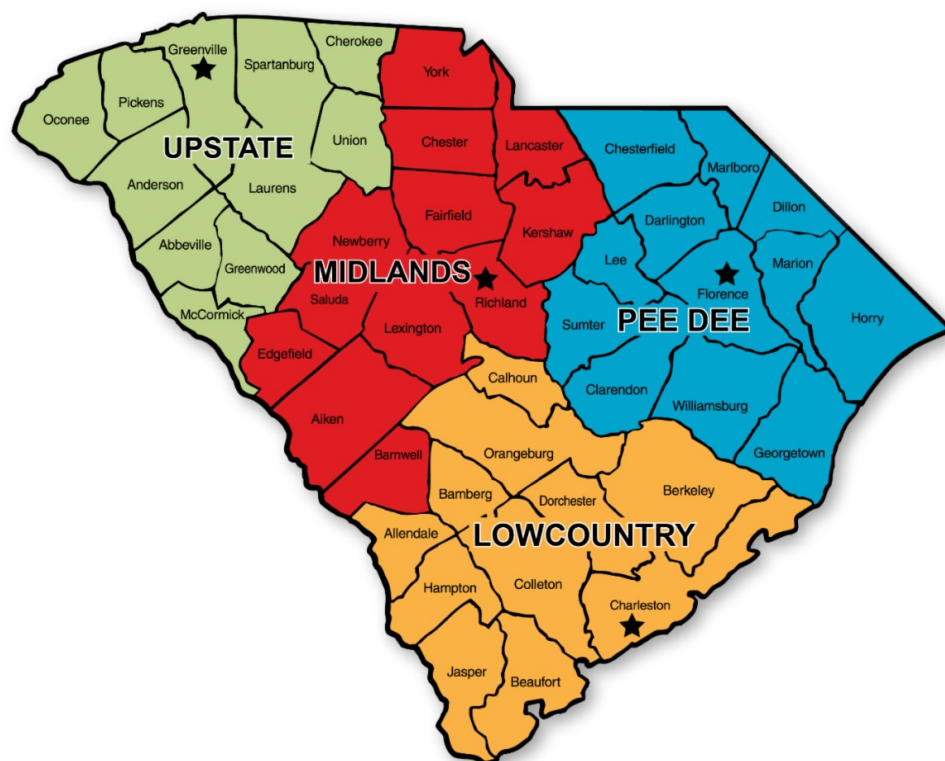
Midlands Region: CIAN Diagnostics, Sam Mullapudi, (240) 422-4164, sam@ciandx.com

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.

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) 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.



DISTRICT & ENTITY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

DEIM Role Addition and Update

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Technology Coordinators, School Counseling Personnel Coordinators, EEDA Accountability Contacts

CONTACT: Maria Swygert, nmswyger@ed.sc.gov

The District & Entity Information Management (DEIM) system has been updated with a new role that must be populated. The Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) Accountability Coordinator has been added for districts to designate their EEDA Accountability contact.

The EEDA Accountability Coordinator will receive information related to the EEDA accountability documents that are collected annually: the Employment Verification Form (EVF) and the Career Specialist Accountability Report (CSAR).

[DEIM Role Addition and Update - Memo](#) PDF (131 KB)

