



# Town of Hilton Head Island **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

**An Update from Deputy Town Manager Josh Gruber  
12/21/2020**

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

Here's an update on what's happening around Town:

## **Fire Rescue Personnel Receive COVID-19 Vaccine**

Firefighters and EMTs with our Fire Rescue Division are among our community's frontline workers that are now receiving the vaccine for the coronavirus. Many of them proudly stepped up to take the vaccine last week when it became available in our community. Throughout the pandemic, Fire Rescue personnel have taken enormous measures to protect the public while responding to a slew of emergencies, including suspected cases of COVID-19. They truly appreciate the support they have received from the public and take pride in doing what's necessary to protect the public while serving in their roles.

## **The COVID-19 Vaccine**

Immunization with a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is a critical component of the United States' strategy to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths and to help put an end to the pandemic. The federal government has stated its goal is to have enough COVID-19 vaccine for all people who wish to be vaccinated. However, in the initial stages of the national COVID-19 Vaccination Program, there is limited supply of the vaccine.

From December 14-16, 2020, South Carolina received its first allocation of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The state received 42,900 doses. Health care facilities received allocations directly from the federal government and have begun vaccinating their front-line medical workers in accordance with [phase 1a vaccination guidance](#). The state is expected to receive between 200,000 to 300,000 doses by the end of the year, however, those amounts are subject to change. For more information on the state's vaccination program and frequently asked question about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [scdhec.gov/covid19vaccine](http://scdhec.gov/covid19vaccine).

## **Where to Find Information on COVID-19 Cases**

Extensive reporting on county-level information, demographics and more about coronavirus cases is available at [scdhec.gov/COVID19](http://scdhec.gov/COVID19). The website is updated **between 1 p.m.-3 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. weekends**. You can also find case data on our website at [hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19](http://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19).

## **Stay in Safety Mode During the Holidays**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful and isolating for many people. During the holiday season, people enjoy connecting with family and friends. However, this year, the



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pandemic is limiting what we all can do. From Thanksgiving through now, our state and our community has seen an increased number of COVID-19 cases. To help reduce our numbers, we are joining state and national health and medical experts in encouraging you to not let your guard down. Consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19. DHEC encourages South Carolinians to get tested before and after you choose to attend a gathering or to travel. While testing and knowing your result is important, [wearing face masks and social distancing continue to be key in limiting the spread of the virus.](#)

### **COVID-19 Testing**

Drive-thru testing for COVID-19 is available from 8 a.m. to noon at Hilton Head Hospital (25 Hospital Center Blvd. on Hilton Head Island) and Coastal Carolina Hospital (1000 Medical Center Drive in Hardeeville). The test is free. No appointment or doctor's order is needed. However, the hospitals will not offer drive-thru testing for COVID-19 on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

### **Town Administrative Office Holiday Closing**

Town administrative offices will be closed on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 and Christmas Day, Friday, December 25. We will resume normal business hours on Monday, December 28.

### **Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue Collecting Food for the Deep Well Project**

Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue is still collecting non-perishable food items for the Deep Well Project. Those items may be dropped off thru January 1, 2021, at Fire Station #3, 534 William Hilton Parkway (next to First Presbyterian Church). With what we've experienced this year due to COVID-19, many families and individuals may need some help during the holidays. For more information, call the Hilton Head Fire Rescue Fire & Life Safety Office at 843-682-5141.

### **Palmetto Breeze Christmas Week Schedule**

Palmetto Breeze will not be providing any transportation services on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, and Christmas Day, December 25. The team at Palmetto Breeze extends holiday wishes to all of its passengers.

### **Historic Holidays on Hilton Head Island**

Although we can't gather this year in the traditional sense, our Island's historic assets came together, under the leadership of the Heritage Library, to share a glimpse of what the holidays looked like on our Island over the course of history in Historic Holidays on Hilton Head. This hour-long docuseries will be airing all month long on WHHI or can be viewed online. It is a uniquely Hilton Head way to celebrate.

Watch Online Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRF7Bz6AXp0&feature=youtu.be>



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