



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

An Update from Interim Deputy Town Manager Angie Stone 2/11/2021

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

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

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

There is so much information circulating about the COVID-19 vaccine. To make sure we are sharing accurate information, we asked Dr. Jane Kelly, an assistant state epidemiologist with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for an update. Dr. Kelly recently shared a presentation about vaccines on a weekly town hall call hosted by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. She has also been a guest speaker at some of our virtual Town Council meetings. Here is the latest vaccine update from Dr. Kelly:

- New cases of the COVID-19 virus are trending downwards across the nation and in all regions of SC - good news at last!
- South Carolina is still having some of the highest rates of new cases in the nation so residents still need to be careful: Wear a face mask, stay six feet away from others, avoid crowds and indoor gatherings, and get tested often.
- The British and South African variants of the virus have been found in South Carolina and are probably more widespread than we know.
- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will protect against the British variant. They are less effective against the South African variant but will at least protect against severe disease.
- New vaccine possibility: the FDA is reviewing the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. If authorized, it may become available in March.
 - 1) It just needs to be refrigerated, and is one dose only.
 - 2) It is 85% effective in preventing severe disease.
 - 3) It is 100% effective in preventing death (no one in the vaccine arm of study died of COVID).
 - 4) It is less effective in preventing mild-moderate disease, especially with the South African variant
- Some experts recommend double-masking. If you want to wear two masks, make sure you can breathe through them. Consider wearing a closefitting paper surgical mask as the first layer with a cloth mask on top of it as a mechanical shield layer. You can also



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get a two-layer cloth mask with an inner pocket into which you can put a third layer insert.

A Word of Caution

Vaccine providers ask that residents be patient as they schedule appointments and await their vaccine shots. Vaccines are limited and are being provided to eligible South Carolinians in stages.

Need More Information on COVID-19 Vaccines and Tests, Here's Where to Find It:

S.C. DHEC COVID-19 Vaccine Information Line: 1-866-365-8110

South Carolinians eligible to receive vaccine can schedule an appointment at a location accepting COVID-19 vaccine appointments. The [scdhec.gov/vaxlocator](https://www.scdhec.gov/vaxlocator) can be used to find those locations and get contact information for scheduling appointments at those locations. People can also call [DHEC's COVID-19 Vaccine Information Line](https://www.scdhec.gov/covid19) at 1-866-365-8110 for help finding vaccine providers and their contact information to schedule an appointment.

Hilton Head Hospital Vaccine Call Center Line: 843-689-7282

The Call Center (843-689-7282) is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day to address your questions regarding registration, appointments, and scheduling. You can also visit the hospital's website at www.hiltonheadregional.com for more information.

DHEC Vaccine Information

[scdhec.gov/COVID19vaccine](https://www.scdhec.gov/COVID19vaccine)

This site provides the latest updates on COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 Case Information

[scdhec.gov/COVID19](https://www.scdhec.gov/COVID19)

This website has extensive reporting on county-level information, demographics and more about coronavirus cases. The website is updated between 1 p.m.-3 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. weekends.

Town of Hilton Head Island COVID-19 Hub Page

hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19

Our COVID-19 Hub page includes links to information DHEC has compiled about COVID-19 cases, vaccines, the state's vaccine distribution plan, and the vaccine locator map. You can also find information on community resources.

COVID-19 Drive-thru Testing

hiltonheadregional.com



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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 referral is needed.

Shining the Spotlight on Good Things Happening in Our Community

We want to take this opportunity to send a big thank you to Hilton Head Regional Healthcare and the Hilton Head Island Computer Club for collaborating to help residents in our community make appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. It's always good when we have entities join forces to do something for the greater good of the community. A part of the appointment process involves each person having their own dedicated email address and access to the internet. Realizing this may be a barrier for some of our elderly community residents, hospital staff and computer club volunteers organized two events to help them sign up to get the vaccine.

The success of those events has led to the organization of a third event that will take place between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. this Friday, February 12, at the Hilton Head Island Senior Center, 70 Shelter Cove Lane. Please call 843-842-4475 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to reserve your visit for assistance. And again, our hats off to the hospital staff and the computer club members. You're providing a great service.

Be Aware: Training Exercises Planned for Law Enforcement and Emergency Planned

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Hilton Head Island's Fire Rescue Division will be conducting training exercises at the site of the former Kingfisher Restaurant in the Shelter Cove Marina. The training exercises may generate some noise and even a bit of curiosity. If you see multiple Sheriff's Office vehicles, fire trucks and ambulances in the area near 18 Harbourside Lane, here's what's going on:

- From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., February 15th thru March 13th, Fire Rescue teams will use the building for training exercises involving laddering, pulling hoselines, and beaching walls. Some training may occur at night as well.
- From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 18 and from 3 to 8 p.m. on March 8th and March 15th, Sheriff's Office deputies will use the building for tactical and K-9 training. Training will take place inside the vacant building.

Emergency personnel will also use some of the parking lot area near the restaurant for staging.

Fire Rescue Seeks Your Input on How Best to Communicate with You

Which type of media do you prefer to use when obtaining local information and which media outlets do you use to receive information specifically from the Town of Hilton



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Head Island? Our Fire Rescue Division wants to know and asks for your response on a communications survey. The survey is available through our Open Town portal on our website at hiltonheadislandsc.gov. The survey is available through May 31, 2021. Results of the survey will be used to help Fire Rescue determine the best methods for communicating with our citizens and visitors.