

# COVID-19 Update

March 28, 6 p.m.

On March 28, a behavioral health employee at offices housed at the former Watkins Pre-Release Center received a positive test result for the COVID-19 virus.

The employee was last at work on March 19 and has been in self-isolation since. His last two visits to institutions were on March 10 and 17, and he had no contact with inmates on either day. He will not return to work until a full recovery is documented.

The employee occasionally visited institutions and worked in behavioral health at Watkins, which is near SCDC's Broad River complex in Columbia. A contact investigation is being conducted with guidance from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

If the investigation determines that any staff members were in close contact with this employee, they will self-monitor for the next four days, which would complete the 14-day observation period.

This is the second SCDC employee who has tested positive. No inmates are positive for COVID-19.

Throughout SCDC, only essential personnel are allowed entrance to institutions. Everyone who enters an institution has their temperature taken and is screened for symptoms.

Offenders have soap and sanitizers to clean their rooms and living areas. They are continuing to have recreation time and education.

SCDC is grateful to DHEC for its advice and collaboration with SCDC's healthcare professionals in this case and throughout the COVID-19 health emergency.

Future updates about COVID-19 will be posted in this spot on our website, [www.doc.sc.gov](http://www.doc.sc.gov)