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# COVID-19 Updates

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Richland County and some surrounding counties

In the interest of public safety and at the direction of the President, Governor, and Mayor the following changes have been made to services provided by agencies in the area. We are updating this list daily to keep the community informed of the services that are available.

The agencies listed below offer services, specifically, to individuals experiencing homelessness. The document is geared toward professionals.

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## Shelter

### Community or Family

- The American Red Cross is not planning to open any emergency shelters at this time.
- Family Shelter is not accepting any new families at this time.
- St. Lawrence Place is open and serving their families only.
- The Salvation Army is assisting with a few hotel vouchers for families who were in hotels before the crisis and have lost income. The legislation that has stopped evictions does not apply to hotels.
- Linda O'Neil is coordinating a team of social workers at DHEC as they work towards finding solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness.

### Men

- Transitions (2025 Main Street) is still accepting referrals and new residents. Their day center is also open for men and/or women.
- Oliver Gospel Mission is continuing to serve the men in their program. They are not accepting new residents.

### Women

- Toby's Place is continuing to serve the women and families in their program. They are not accepting new residents.
- Hannah House is not accepting new families.
- Killingsworth is not accepting any new clothing donations. They operate a 16 bed facility and currently have 11 of those beds full. They are leaving 2 rooms open in case they are needed for isolation.
- Transitions (2025 Main Street) is still accepting referrals and new residents. Their day center is also open for men and/or women.
- Sistercare is fully open and operational, however they have moved their clients into hotels and closed their shelter locations. Staff is working remotely from home and continuing to provide services to their clients via phone. They are able to accept new clients via their same crisis line.

### Youth

- Palmetto Place can take new clients. Please email [Kristan@palmettoplace.org](mailto:Kristan@palmettoplace.org) for a referral form. You can also call her at 803.828.6811. Eligibility is ages 15-20 (they are not licensed for 21 and older) and submit to background checks. If they are 16 and under, by law DSS and law enforcement are involved.
- MIRCI Youth Transitional Living (ages 17-24) 803.939.2642
- Transitions Youth Program (ages 18-24) 803.708.4861

## Health and Health Care

- The Free Medical Clinic is open and operating as normal.
- At this time, all Cooperative Health clinical and administrative sites will remain open, operating normal business hours to provide care and support.
- Power In Changing will be operating a diaper pick-up Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Medicare beneficiaries can temporarily use telehealth services for common office visits, mental health counseling and preventive health screenings. This will help ensure Medicare beneficiaries are able to visit with their doctor from their home, without having to go to a doctor's office or hospital, which puts themselves and others at risk. Please call your doctor to see if your appointment can be conducted using video technology.
- MIRCI remains open to continue providing behavioral healthcare, our clinics and Youth Drop-in Center remain open. They ask that folks who are sick not come, and seek medical treatment.
- As of Monday, March 23, LRADAC's Richland, Lexington and Recovering Professional Programs sites are closed for onsite services. No new patients to outpatient services. Withdrawal Mgmt (detox) working as usual and will accept new patients as decreased capacity allows.
- Narcan is available, but only from the Richland Campus. To obtain Narcan, call 803.726.9390 or call Transitions 803.708.4861.

## COVID-19

- If you have fever, cough or shortness of breath, call your doctor or healthcare provider to discuss your concerns or get medical care. You can also use MUSC Health's [virtual visit](#) by using the promo code "COVID19."
- For general questions about COVID-19, the DHEC Care Line is here to help. Call [1-855-472-3432](tel:1-855-472-3432). Staff are answering calls from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. You can be transferred to a nurse, if you have symptoms.
- Get online care from Prisma Health using your mobile device or computer. Receive a [free virtual visit](#) for coronavirus symptoms with promo code COVID19.
- Prisma Health has added a drive-thru coronavirus testing sites. Individuals must have an order from their health care provider.
  - Prisma Health Richland Hospital 9am-12pm and 1-5pm, Monday-Friday. Outside North Portal, near the ED.
  - Prisma Health Toumey in Sumter. All tests will be performed at the Calhoun Street/Day Surgery entrance Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dental and Vision
- WellPartners Adult Dental Clinic reopened 3/30 for emergencies only.
- WellPartners Eye Clinics are closed.

## Mental Health

- Lexington County Mental Health is serving their clients over the phone.
- Lexington School District Three will continue to serve their clients and families over the phone.
- Epworth Counseling Center is open Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Community [referrals](#) are welcome. Call 803-667-4697 to schedule an appointment.

## Transportation

- The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority (The COMET) announced that transit in the Midlands will operate on a Saturday schedule beginning Thursday, March 19, 2020. The COMET will remain operational for essential travel and riders are asked to observe social distancing practices. The COMET is currently free to ride. [Learn More.](#)
- DART services will remain unchanged. DART requests only essential travel arrangements be made.

## Education and Recreation

- Richland Library locations are closed. Digital resources and databases are available at [richlandlibrary.com](http://richlandlibrary.com).
- Internet access is still available, 24/7, in all Richland Library parking lots, except Richland Library Sandhills.
- Richland Library Social Workers are returning messages left at 803.509.8371 and emails sent to [socialworker@richlandlibrary.com](mailto:socialworker@richlandlibrary.com) Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Richland County Recreation Commission is closed until 4/4.
- All public schools in South Carolina are closed until April 30.
- As of Tuesday, March 17, the City of Columbia has imposed a curfew within city limits. No one should be out during the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. except for work or medical emergencies. A stay at home ordinance went into effect 3/29 for Columbia.
- Lexington School District Two will be serving some known neighborhoods without WIFI with WIFI on their busses.

## Food and Other Personal Needs

- [Lifeline](#) phones will not drop customers for not using or recertifying their phone plan.
- There are two portable toilets and one handwashing station at Richland Library Main. Other portable toilets and handwashing stations are stationed at various locations throughout Columbia.
- GF3 will not be providing their foot care services on Good Friday, 4/10, however will be handing out a hot breakfast, bag lunch, Bombas socks, Citypak backpacks, and bus passes. Location is Christ Central, 2401 Main Street, start time 7:00 am.

### Meal distribution

- Resurrections/Restoration803 will begin serving their meal share on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays beginning 4/4. They will hand out meals between Assembly and Huger along Taylor, Laurel, Hampton, Blanding, and Elmwood beginning at 12:15. They will be serving groups of 3 people or less with everyone 6 ft. apart ONLY. You can reach them at 1-888-970-2004 or [Restoration803@gmail.com](mailto:Restoration803@gmail.com).
- The City of Columbia has closed all parks; meal services in the parks have stopped.
- 153 Project will hand out meals along Assembly Street (between Lady and Calhoun Street) on Wednesdays beginning at 7:30 pm. Look for gold Toyota Tundra truck. Meals will be shared with groups of three (3) or less people.
- Transitions is maintaining their lunch service to the homeless men and women in the community, aged 18 and above.
- MIRCI's Youth Drop-in Center remains open. A hot lunch is served daily.
- Food Not Bombs – not serving on Sundays at 1:00 pm until further notice.
- Hearts for the Homeless/Veterans will serve grab and go style meals on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. in parking spots along the Taylor Street side of Finlay Park.
- Keepin' It Real Ministries will discontinue their Sunday 4:00 p.m. meal share and only serve every Thursday at 5:00 pm at Gadsden/Washington. These will be grab and go style meals.
- St. Peter's will not be doing their meal share on Easter, 4/12.
- St. Luke's Episcopal (1300 Pine St, corner of Lady St.) will have takeout meals at noon every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.
- Trinity Episcopal Cathedral at 1100 Sumter Street feeds breakfast every Sunday morning at 7:00 am. These meals are grab and go style.

### School District Meals

- Richland School District One is serving meals to **all** youth aged 0 -18. A list of sites and times can be [found here](#). Keep checking the website as the locations and time can change often.
- Richland School District Two is offering free bag breakfasts and lunches for children up to age 18. A list of sites and times can be [found here](#). Keep checking the website as the locations and time can change often.
- Lexington-Richland School District Five will be offering meal pick up at the [schools listed here](#). Children do not have to be present to receive a meal. Pickup will be on Monday for the full week. Keep checking the website as the locations and time can change often.

### Food pantries and food vouchers

- Harvest Hope is open 9 a.m. -1 p.m. Monday-Friday for drive-thru food pick up. Individuals need to bring an ID (they are temporarily accepting jail ID's and out of state ID's).
- The Cooperative Ministry is reopening food assistance on Monday, 3/23. Applicants will need to [pre-register on-line at their web page](#). They will be providing food

vouchers to three of their churches as well as items from their food pantry. Pickup for the vouchers and food pantry items will be in a drive-thru style at their clothing bank.

- Mission Lexington is still serving those in their Food For Living Program you may still receive your monthly food at the back door. They are only distributing pre-packed food, and will meet you at the back door for your package.
- Mission Lexington will be providing emergency food assistance, at the back door of their building. Please bring your driver's license and remain in your car.
- Senior Resources is continuing to cover all clients currently enrolled in the Meals on Wheels Program. Beginning Monday, March 23 Senior Resources will be providing any senior citizen in Richland County with five (5) free meals each week on a first come, first served basis. Drive thru meal service is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. [Senior Resources' homepage](#) will serve as the main information source for the four pick-up locations.
- [Foodshare SC](#) is still operating. They are doing their every other week produce boxes and will start a new neighborhood box program. Click the link to visit their [website](#) to see how to place an order and where to pick up boxes from.
- Richland School District Two Social Workers are operating a food pantry at R2i2.
- The Salvation Army's food pantry is going towards reduced hours and will only be open Monday through Thursday at 3024 Farrow Road, Columbia. Please call before you go.
- St. Luke's at 1300 Pine Street provides a food pantry every Thursday from 10-12. Their shower and laundry service is currently closed.

### Clothing

- The Cooperative Ministry is reopening food and clothing on Monday, 3/23. Applicants will need to [pre-register on-line at their web page](#).
- The Salvation Army is open and can provide vouchers to their Family Store. Their stores will have limited hours and be open Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri.

### Finances

- FOR SNAP RECIPIENTS: Expensify.org is going to temporarily redirect all of its charitable funds to [Expensify.org/hunger](#). They are matching SNAP grocery purchases up to \$50 per family. Here are the steps to take: 1. Purchase food as normal with SNAP card 2. [Download](#) Expensify on iOS or Android, for free 3. Join the [Expensify.org/hunger](#) policy 4. [SmartScan](#) the receipt, which will let them know how much was spent and that it was paid with an EBT card. 5. Submit it to [volunteer@expensify.org](mailto:volunteer@expensify.org) 6. Set up your [bank account](#) to receive the funds 7. So long as they have funds available, they will reimburse up to \$50 per family (one time) the next day.
- The Cooperative Ministry is accepting telephone appointments for financial assistance to include rent, utilities, and mortgage. In order to schedule an appointment, you must visit their website at <https://www.coopmin.org/help>. Financial Assistance is only available by appointment.

- All local Social Security offices will be closed to the public for in-person service starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020. However, they are still able to provide services online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Local offices will also continue to provide critical services over the phone at 1-866-964-7594.
- Mission Lexington has closed their social services department until further notice.
- Wateree Community Action's appointment line is open for appointments. You may call 803-470-3591.
- the Salvation Army is open to the public and maintaining normal hours of operation. They are assisting with rent, utilities and other finances. The Salvation Army is requiring documentation that an individual has lost income/employment and has filed for unemployment.

### Income Taxes

- The federal income tax deadline has moved to July 15, 2020. However, the deadline to pay the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.), if you owe them, has been extended an additional 60 days.
- The Cooperative Ministry assists with income taxes. The Cooperative Ministry's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free income tax assistance to thousands of individuals and families with a household income of \$60,000 or less. They have limited hours for drop off only.
- You can also choose to do your taxes for free online at [www.MyFreeTaxes.com](http://www.MyFreeTaxes.com) or [www.scthrive.org/filetaxes](http://www.scthrive.org/filetaxes).

### Legal

- The Richland County Courthouse is closed until further notice.
- Richland County Public Defenders can be reached by calling the main line at 803-765-2592. The receptionist will send any information to the client's assigned attorney or the duty attorney.

### Legislation

- Governor McMaster asked utility companies to [stop disconnections](#) for nonpayment during the coronavirus state of emergency. Late fees may still accrue.

### Links for More Updates in Richland County

- [United Way of the Midlands](#)
- [SC Appleseed](#)
- [Eat Smart Move More](#)
- Food Database

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