

From Sheriff Hart of SC County: March 30, 2020

- Since this is a health emergency, the Sheriff's office is supporting the recommendations of the county health officer and they expect that this role might increase.
- There are four county jail facilities and if the virus gets into the jail system, it will be difficult to eradicate.
- Sheriff has suspended all visitation except for clergy and lawyers.
- Everyone who comes into the jail is screened for COVID-19. If someone has symptoms they are put in isolation and if they are critical they will be taken to Dominican.
- Sheriff is trying to reduce the jail population, so they're only booking felonies.
- They're asking agencies to be very thoughtful around who they are arresting
- Sheriff has also released 45 people who either are going to housing or shelter.
- Juvenile detention center is relatively empty (12 – 14 juveniles and they have capacity for 50)
- One of the difficulties has been the confusion around what is considered an essential business.
- Providing information in a few days to clarify what is an essential business.
- Sheriff has been asking for compliance and 98% of people have been following orders.
- The main focus of enforcement has been on breaking up large groups.
- Creating 7 day/week compliance team.
- They've been receiving roughly 10 complaints/day regarding social distancing.
- General Law Enforcement
- Working closely with the Disaster and Emergency Operations Centers
- Moved to 12 hr shifts
- There are 350 staff
 - All staff are screened daily upon arrival for their shifts.
 - If someone is sick, they are required to go home.
- Priorities for patrols are in neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces to ensure that people are complying with social distancing.
- They've suspended proactive arrests and are trying to be a positive presence in the community.
- Sheriff's office is not moving homeless people or responding to calls for service.
- Sheriff has suspended all evictions
- Officers will be staffing at Dominican at all times in case things get out of hand
- Courts have pretty much shut down. Only essential court dates
 - Although courts are closed, they're still enforcing the law.
- Citations are being issued for 120 days.
- Not making misdemeanor arrests
- Coroner's office is preparing for a mass casualty event
- Really focusing on gathering PPE equipment and offices have put in requests.
- Sheriff is anticipating that 20 – 40% of officers will get sick
- Should there be too great of a loss, they are considering implementing a countywide unified command structure.
- COVID-19 Response can be found on the Sheriff's website