

iNote

Subject: COVID-19 Update

While it's positive news there has been a recent slowdown in COVID-19 cases, the delta variant continues to be highly contagious, and Santee Cooper continues to have many cases. Plus, experts are warning about a potential fourth surge around the holidays. As a reminder, employees must follow Santee Cooper travel guidelines, which can be found below.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 29:

- 32 employees are in quarantine.
- A total of 323 employees have tested positive for COVID-19.
- 35 of those positive are breakthrough cases.
- 766 employees (still less than 50%) are considered fully vaccinated, which means they are two weeks past their final vaccine dose and have given a copy of the vaccination card to Occupational Health.
- We have sadly lost fellow employees and family members to this virus.
- In terms of breakthrough COVID-19 cases in vaccinated employees, Santee Cooper mirrors the general South Carolina population in that they represent a small fraction, and the overwhelming number of employees who have tested positive have not been fully vaccinated.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has approved the Pfizer booster shot for at risk personnel, with boosters from Moderna and Jannsen (Johnson & Johnson) expected soon. You can find more information on the [CDC website](#).

Testing

Testing began Sept. 6 for those considered to be in critical positions to guarantee the flow of electricity and water at Santee Cooper. The testing has been beneficial and, to date, identified several asymptomatic employees who tested positive and so prevented them from entering the workplace and putting other employees at risk.

President Biden has mandated vaccinations or weekly testing for workers in private sector companies with 100+ employees. That mandate will not be effective until OSHA issues an "Emergency Temporary Standard." At this point, we do not know how it might impact state agencies like Santee Cooper. Regardless, Santee Cooper encourages all employees to get vaccinated and to talk about it with your physician if you have concerns.

Travel

Non-vaccinated employees who expect to travel (defined as traveling out-of-state by airplane, ship, train, or other forms of public transportation) or attend a large gathering anywhere (typically defined to include events such as conferences, trade shows,

sporting events, festivals, concerts, or large weddings and which could involve event staff, security, tickets, lodging, or long-distance travel), should continue to communicate with their supervision and Occupational Health and complete the ["Updated OH Travel Form"](#) located on the [COVID-19 iPort page](#) and send to OHTravel@santeecooper.com two (2) weeks prior to your event or travel.

Vaccinated employees should follow all applicable rules regarding travel, including wearing face coverings on public transportation and adhering to any local requirements at their destinations.

If You Have Symptoms

Any employee who begins to have COVID-19 like symptoms, regardless of vaccine status, is still required to do the following:

- Contact Occupational Health immediately at 843-761-4090 to report your symptoms and discuss the need for quarantine and/or testing.
- **DO NOT COME TO WORK** – stay home and isolate/quarantine.
- Contact your supervision.

Failure to comply with any of these requirements or misrepresenting your vaccine status to avoid requirements could result in corrective action.

Please continue to stay vigilant, and be careful in your activities inside and outside of work to protect yourselves, your families and your co-workers. And please contact Occupational Health with any questions.