



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM TELE-TOWN HALL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS (MAY 21, 2020)

Where can I receive information about the \$25 vouchers for the South Carolina Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and how can I apply?

Applications for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) are due June 1, 2020. The program connects low-income senior citizens, ages 60 and older, to local farmers' markets and provides access to fresh produce. For more information, including how to take part in next year's program, please contact Seandra Kelly from the South Carolina Department of Social Services at 803-898-1760 or [Seandra.Kelly@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Seandra.Kelly@dss.sc.gov).

What testing is available to senior citizens amid the coronavirus pandemic?

There are a number of options available to senior citizens, including: on-site testing, drive-thru testing; pop-up testing and virtual testing. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) can sort these testing sites by city and county, and it can provide dates, times, addresses and additional information about these testing sites. Call SC DHEC's Care Line at 1-855-472-3432 (8 a.m. – 6 p.m., daily) or visit <https://www.scdhec.gov/>.

Where can I find a face covering, hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies?

Medical and cleaning supplies are in high demand. Accessibility differs among businesses, depending on product delivery dates. In an effort to make senior citizens and those with underlying health issues feel safe, a number of stores are offering special shopping hours. Try contacting the store, prior to your visit, for more details.



What can I do to protect myself from falling victim to a scam?

The Richland County Sheriff's Department has some great safety tips. If you begin to feel uncomfortable over the phone, ask for a toll-free number to call back or a form with additional information, so you have time to think before you come to a decision. Do not give out any personal information, including your social security number, driver's license, checking account or credit card. If you notice suspicious activity in the neighborhood, report it. Do not open the door to someone you don't know. To reach the sheriff's department, call 803-576-3000 or email [sheriff@rcsd.net](mailto:sheriff@rcsd.net).

Where can I pick up meals for the Emergency Senior Nutrition Program and what are the requirements?

Meal distribution for the Emergency Senior Nutrition Program ends June 5, 2020. To learn more about other food programs, such as Meals on Wheels, the Food Co-Op Program and Senior Care Pantry, contact Senior Resources at 803-252-7734 or [infor@seniorresourcesinc.org](mailto:infor@seniorresourcesinc.org).

How do I receive a stimulus check, particularly if I was filed as a dependent under a family member's tax forms?

According to the Internal Revenue Service, if another member of your family claimed you as a dependent of their tax returns, you are not eligible to receive a stimulus check. For additional questions, reach out to AARP South Carolina at 803-765-7381 or [scaarp@aarp.org](mailto:scaarp@aarp.org).



If my spouse or family caretaker comes into contact with more people, and I have an underlying health issue, how can I protect myself?

To reduce your risk of getting sick, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control offers the following suggestions:

- Wash your hands often.
- Keep away from people who are sick.
- Stock up on supplies.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched services.
- Call your healthcare professional if you have concerns about COVID-19 and your underlying condition or if you are sick.

What resources are available to me for paying rent and utilities?

According to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, if you are not able to pay rent or other fees, there's a hold on eviction filings for 120 days (until July 24, 2020). In addition, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster requested utility companies stop disconnections. However, you may still receive a late-fee charge. To explore possible funding options, contact The Cooperative Ministry by phone at 803-799-3853 or email at [info@coopmin.org](mailto:info@coopmin.org) or Wateree Community Action by phone at 803-807-9811.

What kind of assistance does Richland Library offer, particularly its Social Work Department?

Richland Library's Social Work Department is focused on providing resources to address the personal needs of our community. Our staff is returning calls from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mondays – Fridays, so please call 803-509-8371 and leave a voicemail message with your questions and contact information. The Social Work Department has an updated guide of services that cover shelter and health care to food stamps, rent and utility assistance, and transportation.



Where can I receive help to file my taxes since the deadline was extended?

According to the Internal Revenue Service, most federal tax filings and payment deadlines from April 1, 2020, to July 14, 2020, have a new deadline of July 15, 2020. If you need assistance, contact The Cooperative Ministry by phone at 803-799-3853 or email at [info@coopmin.org](mailto:info@coopmin.org). There's also a free online option at [www.MyFreeTaxes.com](http://www.MyFreeTaxes.com).

How has the coronavirus pandemic affected voting in the June 9 primaries and runoffs?

Every voter in the state of South Carolina now has the option to vote absentee, according to a piece of legislation that South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signed into law in mid-May 2020. It only applies to the June 9 primaries and runoffs. For more information, contact the Richland County Voter Registration Office by phone at 803-576-2240 or by email at [absenteeballots@rcgov.us](mailto:absenteeballots@rcgov.us).