

# Positive COVID-19 cases popping up throughout Oconee County

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — With South Carolina coronavirus cases surging since Memorial Day weekend, local industries and businesses have had to manage positive results inside their own walls.

On Friday, Greenfield Industries president Ty Taylor told The Journal there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the last week at the company's Seneca campus.

An outside cleaning agency was hired after the second case was confirmed on Thursday to shut down the plant on the same day and Friday. Work is set to resume for third shift Sunday, Taylor said.

"We have had lots of interactions with our employees on things to coach them on what to do inside the facility, as well as outside," he said. "As a business, our goal was to ask them to be as safe as possible outside the facility and do everything we can to make sure that if somebody does not pay attention to that outside and if they do come to work and have an issue, we're keeping people as safe as we possibly can. I think we've been successful at doing that."

The first positive case came from an employee last Friday who hadn't been in the facility for a week, according to Taylor.

In the early stages of the pandemic, Taylor said officials formed a pandemic team and developed guidelines and procedures to follow at the facility.

"As soon as this happened, we took anybody that could work remotely and moved them to telework," he said. "I would say more

than 40 people that normally work from our Seneca facility started working from home within a couple days. ...

"We also have a very rigid, rigid set of policies and procedures of what people are supposed to do when they're at the facility, as far as wearing masks, cleaning their hands, staying away from each other and all those types of things."

In light of recent positives, teleworkers were in the process of being sent back home Friday.

Officials declined to comment on how many employees who work at the campus have been tested so far.

Taylor said the spike of cases in South Carolina was concerning.

"When the cases picked up, we got really concerned. We still are concerned," Taylor said. "With the Fourth of July coming up,

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**Suzanna Goulding**  
Greenfield Industries human resources manager

employees to be safe and stay home if they're not feeling well.

"People are taking this very seriously and staying home when they're ill. Most of the people who are getting tested are negative," she said. "People are listening to us and heeding the requirement that

we're giving them of staying home. Don't come to work if you've got symptoms. That's really working to everybody's advantage, including the business."

## RESTAURANT ADDRESSES 'DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE POSTS'

Copper River Grill CEO Dan Angell confirmed one employee at the chain's Seneca restaurant tested positive for the coronavirus

last week after being exposed to it by a "friend outside of work."

Angell said the employee has been asymptomatic and has not worked since being exposed or tested.

In an emailed statement to The Journal, he addressed "dis-

gruntled employee posts" that were sent to the newspaper's social media account.

"As we all know, there is a lot of misinformation and hysteria out there regarding the (coronavirus)," Angell said. "We reviewed the issue in detail with DHEC and they were satisfied with the way we handled it. We put the health and safety of our customers and employees first. We conduct a health survey with every employee prior to every shift, and follow rigid sanitation protocols. For the safety of our guests and employees, we will never let anyone work in our restaurant if we think there is any chance they have the virus."

## VIRUS AT DEALERSHIP

Multiple sources confirmed to The Journal there were two positive cases of the virus at Edwards Auto Sales in West Union.

Dealership owner and Walhalla Mayor Danny Edwards politely declined to comment on the matter.

Have a tip on a COVID-19 case at an Oconee County business? Contact The Journal at (864) 882-2375 or email [life@upstatetoday.com](mailto:life@upstatetoday.com).