



COVID-19 Frequently Asked Question

Updated March 25, 2020

What precautions is DOC taking to protect inmates and staff from COVID-19?

In January 2020 the DOC initiated screening of symptoms of respiratory illness for inmates, staff and volunteers as a precaution during the annual flu season. At that time, the DOC also began screening inmates at intake for recent travel outside the continental US in recognition of the spread of coronavirus in China. In late February, even as incidents of the flu trended downward within its facilities, the DOC expanded these screening measures to all visitors as an early precaution against coronavirus.

Inmates who arrive at our facilities receive a medical screening to assess their healthcare needs and to learn about any potential exposure to COVID-19. Since mid-March, all inmates who have arrived at our facilities are being carefully monitored every day by medical staff for 14 days to look for signs of illness.

We are thoroughly screening every single person who enters our prisons, work release and violation of probation centers, and probation and parole offices. They are asked specific questions about their medical condition and whether they have had any direct or indirect contact with someone who has been tested for COVID-19 or is in quarantine. And they receive a forehead temperature check with a thermometer. Anyone who exhibits signs of illness is turned away and directed to consult with a doctor.

Additional cleaning of all DOC facilities is occurring as much as two times each day, including sanitizing workspaces and disinfecting of hard surfaces that can retain germs. Surfaces in high traffic areas are sanitized even more frequently. Additionally, inmates are provided cleaning supplies to sanitize and disinfect cell areas. The DOC is enlisting all staff, contractors and inmates to take individual action to prevent infection and the spread of COVID-19 through good personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing with soap and water. The attached flyer has been distributed to inmates this week as part of that effort. Inmates have wide access to soap and water, which public health officials have indicated is the preferred method of handwashing see: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/show-me-the-science-hand-sanitizer.html> Additionally, DOC

provides wall-mounted hand sanitizers throughout its facilities. These hand sanitizers are primarily for the use of staff, but hand sanitizers mounted on the walls in hallways and prison infirmaries are frequently used by inmates. Finally, DOC has ordered additional hand soap stations that are being mounted on walls in recreational areas and facility lobbies. These hand soap stations will be available to staff (lobbies) and inmates (recreation areas).

How can I stay in touch with my loved one in DOC custody?

The health and safety of our staff, visitors and the individuals under our supervision are a priority. On March 12, 2020 the DOC temporarily suspended inmate visitation as a necessary step to reduce the risk of COVID-19 entering and spreading within our facilities. The DOC currently offers a variety of phone and video visitation to inmates to facilitate family and community support that we recognize are important to their wellbeing.

While visitation is suspended, the DOC will increase the use of video visitation as available in its facilities. On March 16, 2020 the DOC began providing two free five-minute phone calls per week to all inmates at every Level V prison and Level IV Violation of Probation and Work Release facility to facilitate communication between individuals in DOC custody and their families.

Do probationers still need to check in to their Probation Officers as scheduled?

Yes. Case plans and reporting instructions are developed on an individual basis based on risk and needs. Everyone on probation must call his/her Officer for specific reporting instructions. If the assigned Officer is not available, the individual should ask to speak with the Duty Officer or Duty Supervisor.

Are probationers required to report to Probation and Parole "Weekly" group meetings?

Effective immediately, all treatment programs at the Probation & Parole District Offices will be suspended for two weeks (beginning March 25, 2020 and ending April 10, 2020) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes Aftercare, Mental Edge sex offender treatment, and Gateway substance abuse treatment and programming. This directive will be reevaluated in early April and an update communicated timely. Treatment staff are directed to make and maintain contact with offenders via telephone as a "check-in" and report any concerns or inability to contact an offender to the assigned Probation Officer and Supervisor immediately. Treatment providers are expected to report "check-in" updates to the assigned Probation Officer on a weekly basis.

Do inmates continue to have access to their lawyers?

Yes. The temporary restriction on visitation does not apply to inmate meetings with their attorneys. The DOC is working to accommodate video meetings for attorneys who prefer to meet with their clients remotely.

Have any officers or offenders tested positive for COVID-19?

To date, we have no known cases of COVID-19 in any DOC facility or Probation and Parole Office.

What specific screening measures are in place?

Everyone who enters a DOC facility and Probation Office are asked specific questions about their medical condition and whether they have had any direct or indirect contact with someone who has been tested for COVID-19 or is in quarantine, and they receive a forehead temperature check with a thermometer. In addition, all new pre-trial detentioners and newly-sentenced offenders are screened upon intake and monitored for the 14 days.

Are pre-trial detainees and newly-sentenced offenders tested for COVID-19?

In January, we began enhanced medical screenings for individuals held in pre-trial detention and sentenced offenders in our facilities during the flu season. In February, we increased these screenings for COVID-19 as it spread to the United States. Inmates who arrive at our facilities receive a medical screening to assess their healthcare needs and to learn about any potential exposure to the virus. Since mid-March, all inmates who have arrived at our facilities are being carefully monitored every day by medical staff for 14 days to screen for signs of illness.

If an offender shows symptoms for COVID-19 is he or she isolated?

Yes.

Will the family and public be notified if an offender tests positive for COVID-19?

Yes, a press release will be issued and the public will be notified via social media.

If an officer tests positive for COVID-19, will the public and correctional facility be notified?

Yes, a press release will be issued and the public will be notified via social media.

If there is a large outbreak of COVID-19 in a DOC facility, where will inmates be housed?

Each facility has a contingency plan in place in the event that an offender contracts COVID-19.

Is DOC considering early release for offenders?

No. DOC's facilities are not overcrowded. DOC's prison population is down 25% over the past 6 years.

Coronavirus: COVID-19

What you need to know!

A new virus that has made a lot of people sick. Doctors are working hard to find ways to help people stay healthy!

Symptoms



Prevention



Sing "Happy Birthday"
for **20** seconds



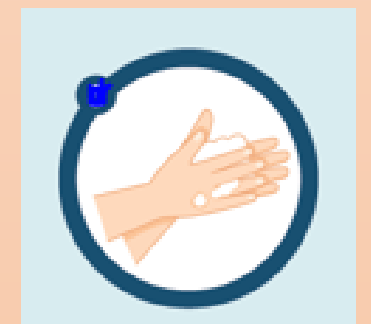
Don't touch your face
with dirty hands



Washing your hands



Wet hands
with water
Use soap



Palm to palm

Fingers
interlaced

Back of hands

Fingernails