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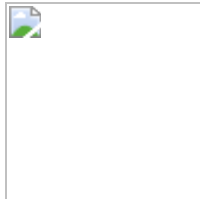
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State of New Jersey

Department of Corrections

"Protecting Public Safety by Changing Offender Behavior"

Commissioner

Marcus O. Hicks, Esq.



NJDOC



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COVID 19 Updates

CONFIRMED COVID CASES AT THE NJDOC

Last updated: 4/6/2020 8:35:32 PM

PRISONS AND ANCILLARY LOCATIONS	EMPLOYEES	INMATES
Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center	3	0
Bayside State Prison	0	0
Central Office Headquarters	0	0
Central Reception and Assignment Facility	6	0
Correctional State Training Academy	2	0
Custody Recruitment Unit	1	0
East Jersey State Prison	6	0
Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women	12	2
Garden State Youth Correctional Facility	8	0
Mid-State Correctional	0	0
Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility	7	0
New Jersey State Prison	3	1
Northern State Prison	17	2
South Woods State Prison	0	0
Southern State Correctional Facility	1	0
STU	1	0
Totals	67	5

CONFIRMED COVID CASES AT NJDOC RCRPS (HALFWAY HOUSES)

Last updated: 4/6/2020 8:35:32 PM *RCRP staff are not NJDOC employees.

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY RELEASE PROGRAM	INMATES
Bo Robinson Assessment and Treatment	0
Clinton House	0
Columbus House	0

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY RELEASE PROGRAM**INMATES**

CURA, Inc.	0
Fenwick House	0
Fletcher House	1
Garrett House	0
Hope Hall	0
James A. Hemm House	0
Kintock Bridgeton 1	0
Kintock Bridgeton 2	0
Kintock Newark	1
The Harbor House	1
Tully House	0
Totals	3

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions – as of 3/31/2020

The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) takes the threat of coronavirus (COVID-19) seriously, and in consultation with the Department of Health, has taken proactive measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. These action steps are outlined in the frequently asked questions below.

Are staff and incarcerated individuals being screened for COVID-19 before entering an NJDOC facility?

Yes. The NJDOC is conducting health screenings of all individuals entering its facilities that includes a temperature scan and subsequent questionnaire detailing recent travel activity and contact with individuals who tested positive for COVID-19.

Is social distancing being enforced throughout NJDOC facilities?

The Department is taking this issue very seriously and continuously assessing and amending its policies as the CDC and New Jersey Department of Health issue new guidance. The NJDOC is practicing social distancing among its workforce, limiting foot traffic in facilities, with the implementation of flexible work arrangements for non-essential personnel that includes a reduced and rotational workforce. As it pertains to the incarcerated, group gatherings are modified to minimize potential exposure and encourage social distancing. For example, individuals are provided access to religious materials and for the time being are encouraged to practice their faith in their living quarters. Also, educational programs have been adapted in support of independent study.

What procedures is the NJDOC using to keep facilities clean?

All facilities have enhanced sanitization efforts using bleach. The Department has also increased access to hand sanitizer for staff and soap for inmates, while also educating all on CDC guidance on mitigating the spread of germs.

How can I contact my loved one while visiting is suspended?

The Department recognizes that families provide critical support and has increased access to other forms of communication such as telephone calls, JPay kiosk usage and access to U.S. mail postage, free of charge, to maintain ties to loved ones.

Is educational programming affected by the COVID-19 outbreak?

The Department instituted a temporary suspension of group classes so that its team of internal educators can prepare coursework materials that inmates can complete without an instructor and to accommodate social distancing. A limited number of educators will continue to report on a reduced rotation schedule to distribute coursework and be available if students need additional help or guidance.

What is being done for the elderly and vulnerable people in custody?

In addition to increasing sanitization within facilities, the NJDOC employs a medical staff trained in infectious disease management. Medical teams are acutely aware of the needs of the vulnerable population within the institutions and are amplifying efforts to both monitor and reduce potential exposure and transmission of the virus. Individuals who demonstrate symptoms will be provided with personal protective equipment, as medically directed, and either quarantined, medically isolated, or transferred to a hospital, as prescribed. Furthermore, individuals have been instructed to report ailments to medical staff and alert our staff of any urgent medical needs.

Why don't all inmates have facemasks?

Consistent with CDC recommendations, only patients who are ill or demonstrate symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will don an N95 facemask.

How does the social distancing mandate apply to offenders that sleep in dorms?

Current housing situations will remain in place. As per the Department's regular protocols, if anyone in custody is showing signs and symptoms of flu, respiratory illnesses or COVID-19, he or she will receive a medical assessment to determine testing needs and will be quarantined, placed in medical isolation or hospitalized as medically prescribed.

What happens if someone in the offender population shows possible signs of COVID-19 inside a facility?

The NJDOC has made advanced preparation to develop quarantine and medical isolation accommodations for asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals, respectively, across its facilities. If someone shows possible signs of COVID-19 the NJDOC medical team in partnership with the Department of Health will determine testing needs and next steps for those who exhibit COVID-related symptoms; this includes quarantining, medically isolating, or transferring the impacted to a hospital, as needed.

What happens if an employee shows possible signs of COVID-19 inside a facility?

The Department is taking every precaution to mitigate the spread of the virus, including:

- Providing health scans of all individuals entering our facilities
- Providing N95 masks, as medically prescribed, to employees managing individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Distributing surgical masks to all employees and state agencies, upon request within our facilities to mitigate the spread of other respiratory diseases
- Limiting foot traffic across our facilities to essential personnel
- Restricting transfers from county facilities
- Temporarily suspending all inter-institutional transfers based on an inmate's request for visit hardship across NJDOC facilities.
- Modifying activity schedules to accommodate for social distancing guidance
- Enhancing sanitization and providing employees and inmates access to sanitization products
- Temporarily suspending visitation, except for visits related to legal representation

Should an employee test positive, that individual will be instructed to self-quarantine or self-isolate at home. NJDOC will notify all individuals who have been in contact with the individual so that they can self-quarantine, as directed by the Department of Health. The Department would also quarantine inmates that have been in contact with the individual while monitoring symptoms.

In terms of our operations, the Department has a contingency plan in place to ensure appropriate staffing coverage across our facility that does not compromise public safety.

Is my loved one eligible for early release?

New Jersey Department of Corrections does not have the authority to release individuals early.

How does NJDOC determine who will be tested? Will testing be provided for prisoners who request it or show symptoms?

If an adult in custody is showing signs and symptoms of flu or COVID-19 including fever, cough, and shortness of breath, that individual will be tested by a healthcare provider as recommended by DOH. Those being tested or awaiting results will either be quarantined, medically isolated, or sent to a hospital depending on individual needs. NJDOC will not charge medical copays for medical visits related to COVID-19.

Have you looked into canceling state transports? What about my loved one who had a routine health appointment in the community?

All nonessential medical trips are on hold effective immediately and will be reassessed when appropriate. Essential medical trips will continue.

Are transfers happening between institutions and from jails?

Out of an abundance of caution, the Department is:

- suspending the transfer of inmates from county jails;
- holding all new inmates for 15-days at the Central Reception and Assignment facility prior to transferring individuals to their assigned institutions; and
- temporarily suspending all inter-institutional transfers based on an inmate's request for visit hardship across NJDOC facilities.

Are laundry operations modified due to COVID-19?

At this time, the CDC is not recommending any changes to the current processing standards for the commercial laundry industry. According to the CDC, there is a higher risk of exposure with close direct person-to-person contact than with indirect contact of potentially contaminated objects (such as laundry). The NJDOC will continue to utilize standard universal precautions in the handling and processing of all contaminated materials. As a precaution, NJDOC has enhanced the disinfecting of its laundry facilities.

What steps are you taking to protect staff?

Department is taking every precaution to mitigate the spread of the virus in its facilities including:

- providing health screenings of all individuals entering NJDOC facilities;
- providing N95 masks, as medically prescribed, to employees managing individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and distributing surgical masks to all employees and state agencies, upon request within our facilities to mitigate the spread of other respiratory diseases;
- enhancing sanitization and providing employees access to sanitization products;
- adhering to social distancing guidance in prison activities;

- limiting foot traffic across our facilities, including:
 - reducing non-essential workforce
 - restricting transfers from county facilities
 - suspending visitations
 - temporarily suspending all inter-institutional transfers based on an inmate's request for visit hardship across NJDOC facilities.

What special precautions are you taking for inmates that are soon to be released?

From a health perspective, as part of our regular discharge processes, all inmates nearing release will undergo a medical assessment that will now include CDC guidance on how to protect themselves from COVID-19. The discharge process also includes linkages to resources that provide support to offenders, from state-issued identification, to medical care coverage, medical services and housing support along with a two-week supply of prescription medication for existing conditions.

What measures are in place in Residential Community Release Programs?

The safety of our residents is our top priority. We are taking the threat of COVID-19 seriously and have instituted several preventative measures, in consultation with the NJDOH in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. These include:

- Enhanced sanitization across our halfway houses
- Health screenings for all those entering the halfway houses that includes temperature scans and a series of medical questions to help identify changes to health
- Suspending large group events and ensuring small activities are aligned with social distancing guidance
- Temporarily suspending visitation
- Advanced preparation for medical quarantines and medical isolation for impacted individuals, as medically prescribed

The Department, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health, will continue to monitor the situation and amend procedures as needed. To date, below is a list of proactive measures taken to mitigate the spread of the virus:

- The Department has increased sanitization efforts using bleach, and has posted CDC educational guidance for staff and inmates on how to control the spread of germs.
- All individuals entering an NJDOC facility are required to successfully complete a health screening, including a temperature scan.
- Medically supported personal protective equipment will be provided to inmates demonstrating symptoms, and staff who interact with these individuals, as medically prescribed.
- To prevent the spread of other respiratory diseases, all NJDOC staff within prison facilities are provided access to surgical masks, upon request.
- The Department has made advanced preparation of medical quarantines for impacted inmates to be utilized, medical isolation or medical transport to hospitals as prescribed by medical personnel.
- The Department has instituted the following in support of reducing unnecessary foot traffic in facilities:
 - reducing non-essential workforce by implementing a rotational flexible work schedule
 - suspending transfers from county facilities
 - suspending visitations
 - temporarily suspending all inter-institutional transfers, based on an inmate's request for visit hardship across NJDOC facilities.
- Understanding the critical support that visitations provide, the Department is increasing access to other forms of communication for inmates and families in light of the visitor suspension.
Communication platforms include:
 - Expanding inmate and resident access to additional phone calls free-of-charge;
 - Expanding inmate and resident access to additional JPay kiosk usage; and
 - Providing the inmate and resident population access to free postage.
- Social distancing is being implemented and encouraged within facilities where possible. This includes limits on foot traffic in facilities and changes to group activities.

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