

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Correctional Facilities  
March 16, 2020

Prevent the introduction of respiratory germs **into** your facility

- We recommend visitation to prisons be suspended until further guidance is issued.
- If for any reason visitation is permitted, post signs instructing visitors, employees, and other persons not to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection – fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- If visitors, employees, or any other persons seeking entrance have symptoms of respiratory infection such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, do not allow them to enter your facility. Develop screening protocols for all entrants to complete prior to being admitted into the secure perimeter.
- Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Assess symptoms of respiratory infection upon inmate intake to the facility and implement appropriate infection prevention practices.

Prevent the spread of respiratory germs **within** your facility

- Keep employees and inmates informed of policies, practices, and changes related to this virus.
- Monitor employees and inmates for symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Support hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cough etiquette by inmates, visitors, and employees.
- Ensure employees are properly trained on infection control procedures.
- Maintain appropriate PPE supplies and practice PPE conservation
- Isolate persons that are symptomatic, provide them with PPE, along with the person transporting them and caring for them.
- Designate “clean teams” who may need PPE and consistently disinfect high traffic areas or known contaminated areas.
- Set up stations within the facility where all persons can easily access hand sanitizers.
- Mobilize, inventory, and track all necessary resources.

Prevent the spread of respiratory germs **between** facilities

- If an inmate has been identified as likely or confirmed positive for COVID-19 virus, keep the inmate in quarantine, and do not transport the inmate to another correctional facility.
- Notify facilities prior to transferring an inmate with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a healthcare facility.
- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in employees and inmates through the appropriate chain of command.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:  
Creating Opportunities for Safer Communities

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