



Ned Lamont  
Governor

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Office of the Commissioner



Rollin Cook  
Commissioner

TO: All DOC Staff  
FROM: Rollin Cook, Commissioner  
DATE: March 26, 2020  
SUBJ: COVID-19 Memo #5

I hope this memo finds you all well. We are certainly facing challenges most of us have not experienced in our career or lifetime. In my effort to continue to keep the lines of communication open, I want to take this opportunity to update you about some of our efforts as they pertain to the ongoing pandemic.

First off, let me offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you for rising to meet this challenge. This profession is hard enough during “normal” times, but during times of uncertainty it takes individuals of exceptional character to continue to answer the call to duty. By any objective measure, you are all heroes.

Thanks in large part to the hard work of our Community Release Unit (CRU), and Parole and Community Services (PCS), in collaboration with The Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) our offender population has dropped below 12,000 for the first time in nearly 27 years.

As a result of our rapidly declining population we have established isolation units for all new intakes at the Bridgeport, Corrigan-Radgowski, Hartford, New Haven Correctional Centers, the Garner, and York Correctional Institutions as well the Manson Youth Institution.

Upon intake, the offenders will be isolated in a separate housing unit for the recommended 14-days. These isolation units should prove to be an extremely effective defense against newly admitted offenders introducing the virus into the facilities.

I am also very proud of the efforts of the agency’s Correctional Enterprises of Connecticut (CEC) Unit. Responding to reports of a nationwide shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) they quickly shifted gears, developed a prototype, started production and after just three days have produced more than 4,100 face masks. These masks are being distributed to the facilities as we speak.

With the realization that many of you have many questions which space and time constraints make impossible for me to answer, we are posting all information related to the COVID-19 pandemic on the Health Information and Advisories page on the DOC website:

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<https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Common-Elements/Common-Elements/Health-Information-and-Advisories>

One of the features on the page is a chart (see below), which indicates the total number of offenders who have been tested and those who are positive for the COVID-19 virus.

**CT DOC COVID-19  
Tested/Confirmed Tally**

CT DOC Offenders Tested for COVID-19	CT DOC Offenders Positive for COVID-19
<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>

We are in the process of finalizing the procedures regarding staff reporting requirements related to the COVID-19 14-day allotment.

Some of the national healthcare guidelines and recommendation pertaining to the virus are changing due to the uniqueness of this pandemic. We are working diligently to stay on top of any new developments, and are committed to keeping you safe and informed.

I find it difficult to communicate the appropriate words that express the level of admiration I have for all of your efforts. As a correctional officer I understand the challenge of facing a “normal” day and even a challenging day in the world of corrections and parole, but these days are far from normal and come with additional concern and even fear. The dedication I see on display dozens of times a day, every day - means more to me and our community than you will ever know.

It is a bit of an understatement to say that there are many unknowable aspects with regards to this pandemic. However, there is one thing I am certain of, we will get through this thanks to your valiant efforts.

Stay safe.