TO: All Staff
FROM: Rollin Cook, Commissioner
DATE: March 12, 2020
SUBJECT: Coronavirus Memo #3

I am once again writing to you as part of my commitment to keeping you informed on development as they pertain to the Department’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In response to Governor Lamont’s emergency health declaration operational policy changes have been implemented to mitigate the risk of contamination for staff, the inmate population, and members of the public.

The most impactful change is that all social visits to the facilities have been suspended until further notice. In addition, volunteers’ access to the facility has also been suspended. Outside access to the facilities has been restricted to essential services only.

Facilities are modifying daily operations in order to avoid large group activities for the inmate population.

In an effort to lessen the impact of the loss of visits, we have negotiated with the State’s contracted prison phone service provider, Securus, to provide two free phone calls per week for the next 30 days. The complete Coronavirus Response Operations Plan, along with other information pertaining to the Covid-19 outbreak, can be found on the Health Information and Advisory page of the Department of Correction website:


The situation is fluid and constantly being reassessed. As circumstances warrant we will make additional changes to the facility operation plan.

Please continue to follow routine preventative measures such as frequent hand washing and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Once again, I cannot thank you enough for your cooperation and professionalism during this challenging time.