



Ned Lamont
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Rollin Cook
Commissioner

TO: All Staff
FROM: Rollin Cook, Commissioner
DATE: March 10, 2020
SUBJECT: Coronavirus Memo #2

In keeping with my commitment to keep open lines of timely communication, I want to provide an update to our agency employees on recent developments associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

As you may have heard, Governor Lamont publicly confirmed that the state of Connecticut has its first presumptive positive case of coronavirus believed to have infected a Wilton Connecticut resident through travel to the west coast. The case is considered presumptive until confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This case is not related to the two New York residents, with employment at local Connecticut hospitals who tested positive just one day prior.

Further direction issued through the Governor's Office has prompted the agency to freeze all out of state work travel and review all pre-scheduled large scale meetings and/or events to determine if postponement is appropriate in an effort to limit external exposures.

The Department of Correction continues to prepare for an exposure at one of our facilities through increased cleaning and disinfecting, ensuring we order an ample supply of personal protective equipment, educating the population on signs and symptoms and reminders of the importance of hand washing, and monitoring the evolving messages from the CDC as our official guidance.

We have added links to our website, providing easy access to information from the CDC and The Department of Public Health (DPH) as well as information related to the call center created at 2-1-1 available by both phone and text (text the word "COVID19" to 898211)

This is a time for continuous communication aimed at minimizing fear that often surfaces when agencies remain silent. This isn't a time to panic - it's time to prepare and prevent. We care about our people. Remember to practice the basics of prevention - wash your hands and avoid touching your face.

Thank you for your collective cooperation. I couldn't be more proud of the attention our staff have given to this critical topic.