



State of Connecticut
Department of Correction

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COVID-19 FAQ

1. Q. Are there social visits?

A. Social visitation has been suspended at this time. It is unclear when we will resume visiting at the facilities.

2. Q. Are offenders allowed phone calls? Are phones being cleaned?

A. Phone calls are allowed as normal. Furthermore, due to visits being suspended, each offender has received two free phone calls a week. Phone sanctions have also been suspended to ensure all offenders can attempt to contact their family and friends. Yes, phones are being cleaned.

3. Q. Will offenders be allowed to order commissary?

A. Commissary is currently allowed to be ordered and delivered as normally scheduled.

4. Q. Are programs still occurring?

A. Small group programming is still being conducted within the facility.

5. Q. What will happen to newly committed offenders' property? Will family be allowed to retrieve their belongings?

A. For newly committed offenders and other offenders who would normally have their property retrieved during visiting hours, the Department of Correction will extend the time frame in which it stores the property until inmate visitation resumes.

6. Q. How are newly committed offenders being screened prior to being admitted to facilities?

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

7. Q. Will offenders be released normally?

A. Regularly scheduled end of sentence dates will remain unchanged and offenders will be released. All community release and discretionary parole releases will also remain unchanged. Precautionary steps are being taken to ensure offenders released to the community do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19.

8. Q. What is being done to protect staff?

A. Staff have been made aware of personal protective equipment available to them and have access to these items as needed. Temperatures will be taken prior to entrance to the facility as a precautionary measure. All staff members have access to washrooms where they are able to wash their hands with soap and water, as suggested by the CDC.

9. Q. What is being done to protect offenders?

A. Offenders continue to have access to health care. All fees associated with health services appointments have been suspended to ensure ample treatment is provided at no cost to offenders. Operational procedures have been modified to limit movement within the facility without compromising the daily needs of the offenders.

10. Q. What cleaning protocols are being used to clean facilities? What hygiene items are available for offenders?

A. Additional protective equipment and cleaning supplies have been delivered and utilized at each facility. Institutional cleanings have been increased within each facility. Common areas within each housing unit are being disinfected more often, this includes but is not limited to, showers, hand rails, tables, door handles, and phones. Additional soaps and personal hygiene items have been delivered to the facilities for use by offenders.

11. Q. When are offenders being tested?

A. Any offender displaying COVID-19 symptoms are separated from the general population to ensure they can be monitored, treated and tested if necessary.

12. Q. What if an offender tests positive for COVID-19?

A. The Connecticut DOC will follow the guidelines set by the CDC with regards to masking and isolation. Each facility has a pandemic plan and has isolated areas where offenders who test positive or have symptoms can be housed and treated separate from the general population.

13. Q. Are there enough ventilators? Will inmates be transferred to hospitals?

A. If offenders need ventilators they will be transferred to hospitals and provided care based on their needs.

14. Q. How many offenders have been tested? Are there test kits?

A. The Department has a COVID-19 Tracker on the DOC website that is updated with current statistics. There are test kits available and re-ordered as needed. Test are only administered when ordered by a physician.

15. Q. How often are quarantined inmates seen by medical?

A. Medical staff are checking on offender's multiple times per day. Furthermore, correctional staff are available to contact medical if an offenders condition changes.