



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

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OOS IB #: 2022-04

Effective: September 12, 2022

INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUBJECT: Rescission Notice of COVID-19 Related OOS Information Bulletins

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has provided DPSCS with additional guidance regarding changes needed to our current policies and procedures. Based on MDH's guidance, the following Office of the Secretary Information Bulletins (IB) and Special Operating Procedures (SOP) related to COVID-19 procedures, practices, and guidance are rescinded and normal operations should be resumed, except as directed in *OOS IBs Nos. 2022-05, 2022-06, 2022-07, and 2022-08*.

As necessary, the Commissioner of Pretrial Detention and Services will identify and reissue as a DPDS IB, any of the rescinded documents listed below in order to comply with an outstanding court order or consent decree mandating specific COVID-19 procedures at the Baltimore Central Intake and Booking Center.

Note: Newer IBs and Department directives have superseded some of the documents listed below, however, in addition to rescinding certain current COVID-19 procedures, practices, and guidance, this IB serves to memorialize the termination of previously superseded IBs and SOPs.

Additional changes and rescissions are forthcoming.

- OOS IB # 2020-01 Accelerated Onboarding for PRN Medical Staff During COVID-19, dated 3/10/2020
- OOS IB # 2020-02 Emergency Suspension of Medical Fees for Inmates During COVID-19, dated 3/18/2020 Revised 3/31/2022. Reissued in *OOS IB 2022-05*.
- OOS IB # 2020-03 CONFIDENTIAL - Emergency Suspension of Certain Pat Down Procedures, dated 4/1/2020
- OOS IB # 2020-04 60 Day Supply of Release Medication, dated 4/2/2020
- OOS IB # 2020-05 Additional PPE Return to Work, dated 4/6/2020
- OOS IB # 2020-06 Distribution and Voluntary Donning of N95 Respirators, dated 4/27/2020

- OOS IB # 2020-07 Entry Access Protocols (Updates only to the Screening Questionnaires), dated 5/6/2020, revised 5/13/2020, and Revised 8/10/2020
 - OOS IB # 2020-08 Contact Tracing, dated 5/20/2020
 - OOS IB # 2020-09 Use of Sick Leave and Failure to Disclose COVID-19 Positive Status, dated 5/27/2020
 - OOS IB # 2020-11 Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for Correctional Employees, dated 6/5/2020
 - OOS IB # 2020-12 Universal and Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for DPSCS Employees Assigned to the Division of Parole and Probation(DPP), Information Technology & Communications Division (ITCD), Maryland Parole Commission(MPC), Office of Investigative Services (IID, WAU, K-9, CIT), and all other Administrative Offices, dated 6/12/2020, reissued as OOS IB 2021-03
 - OOS Memorandum Guidance for Testing Individuals Reporting to State Correctional Facilities, dated 9/22/2020
 - OOS IB # 2020-14 COVID 19 Updates, dated 11/5/2020
 - OOS IB # 2021-01 Mandatory Participation in Respiratory Protection Program, dated 3/5/2021—Reissued as OOS IB # 2022-08
 - OOS IB # 2021-03 Universal and Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for DPSCS Employees, dated 5/21/2021
 - OOS IB # 2021-04 Universal and Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for Vendors, Contractors, and Volunteers - Never formally issued, dated 6/4/2021
 - OOS IB # 2021-05 COVID-19 Screening Testing for DPSCS Employees, Contractors, and Volunteers, dated 7/26/2021
 - OOS IB # 2021-06 Mandatory Use of Facemasks Inside All DPSCS Correctional Facilities, dated 8/9/2021
 - OOS IB # 2021-08 State Correctional Facilities—Mandatory Vaccination and Weekly COVID-19 Testing—Weekly DPSCS Regional Testing Report – Never authorized, dated 10/14/2021 and Revised 10/8/2021
 - OOS IB # 2021-09 DPSCS Operations Updates Related to Increased COVID-19 Positivity Rate, dated 12/23/2021, revised 12/27/2021
 - OOS IB # 2021-10 Operational Updates due to COVID Positive Rate, dated 12/29/2021
 - OOS IB # 2022-01 Operational Updates, dated 1/5/2022
 - OOS IB # 2022-03 Masking Updates, dated 2/22/2022
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- DPSCS COVID-19 SOP 01-2020 COVID-19 Transport, dated 03/21/2020
 - DPSCS COVID-19 SOP 02-2020 Isolation Housing, dated 3/25/2020

DPSCS COVID-19 SOP 2.5-2020	Personal Cell Phone Contractual Mental and Medical Staff, dated 4/3/2020
DPSCS COVID-19 SOP 03-2020	PTR Memorandum - Procedures for Admission and Discharge of COVID-19 Cases in Isolation and Quarantine Areas, dated 4/13/2020
DPSCS COVID-19 SOP 05-2020	Disinfection Protocols Using a Handheld Sprayer, dated 5/6/2020
DPSCS COVID-19 SOP 07-2020	Battelle N95 Sanitation, dated 5/8/2020
DPSCS COVID-19 SOP 09-2020	Proposed Internal and External Inmate Movement During COVID-19, dated 7/17/2020



Robert L. Green, Secretary

Attachment: Maryland Department of Health Interim Guidance for COVID-19 in the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, updated August 17, 2022.

Distribution:
A – Facility/Agency Reference Set
S – All DPSCS Employees



**Interim Guidance for COVID-19 in the
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
(Updated August 17, 2022)**

Background

This interim guidance describes the recommendations for correctional officials in Maryland regarding SARS-CoV-2 (“COVID-19”) policies within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) in alignment with the the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) [Guidance on Prevention and Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#) (Guidelines). This guidance replaces and supersedes all previous interim guidance on this subject.

Strategies for Everyday Operations

At all times, facilities should practice strategies for everyday operations in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within DPSCS facilities and at intake. Facilities should provide opportunities for vaccinations, testing as appropriate, and maintain access to COVID-19 therapeutics and medical isolation and quarantine. For further information, please see Appendix A which balances everyday operational strategies and enhanced COVID-19 prevention strategies as indicated below.

Each facility should take these recommendations and develop an informational bulletin (IB) to implement on a facility-specific basis.

A. Vaccination

Facilities should ensure that staff and residents are up to date with COVID-19 vaccination by offering the opportunity for residents to receive appropriate vaccinations. Staff are encouraged to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines through covidvax.maryland.gov. An individual is [up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccine when they have received all doses in the primary series and all [recommended boosters](#).

B. Masking

Facilities should make well-fitting masks available to any residents and staff who would like to use them based on their personal preference.

C. Testing

Reasons for Testing: The following are different reasons for testing within (DPSCS: (1) Confirm infections in symptomatic individuals (disease diagnosis); (2) confirm transmission for close contacts; (3) identify spread in a population (the main purpose of random testing); (4) test prior to transfer or release (operational testing); and (5) screening for disease in inmates entering the system (intake testing).

Recommendations for Testing

MDH recommends that DPSCS follow the Guidelines with respect to diagnostic, screening, and operational (movement-based) screening testing within DPSCS facilities. Community transmission rates may not always be indicative of transmission rates within the facility (they may be either higher, lower, or similar to the facility rates). MDH also does not distinguish between testing of individuals who are up to date in their vaccination status or not up to date, given the significant rates of infection in vaccinated individuals at this time.

- **Diagnostic Testing:** May be performed for anyone who shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and anyone who has been potentially exposed or identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
- **Routine Screening Testing:** May be performed regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status for all residents at intake.

Facilities may substitute rapid COVID-19 testing (using over the counter COVID-19 test kits or point of care test kits) **for PCR testing**. A confirmatory PCR test may be used for positive rapid COVID-19 results. Rapid tests may be requested from Mdh.testing@maryland.gov.

Please note: Providers shall follow all required reporting for positive tests as outlined in [MDH Amended Directive and Order Regarding Various Healthcare Matters](#) (No. MDH 2022-06-27-01 or amended).

Recommendations for Quarantine

MDH recommends that DPSCS follow the Guidelines regarding quarantine of exposed individuals.

D. Staff Considerations

In accordance with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) policy on [Pandemic Flu and Other Infectious Diseases Attendance and Leave](#) and CDC Guidance, regardless of vaccination status, staff should be excluded from work if they:

- Have symptoms of COVID-19; or
- Have a positive test for COVID-19, with or without symptoms.

CDC recommends maintaining 10-day isolation periods as much as possible for all infected staff in correctional and detention facilities, regardless of their vaccination status. (Please note, staff may use [CDC guidance for the general public](#) for duration of isolation when they are not at work.) During crisis-level operations (e.g, staffing shortages which threaten to compromise the safety or security of the facility), facilities may consider short-term alternatives to the recommended 10-day isolation period. Any modified isolation should only be a short-term, crisis management tool. After the crisis has been mitigated, facilities should return to the 10-day isolation period for staff.

Strategies for Enhanced COVID-19 Prevention

Facilities may consider enhanced COVID-19 prevention strategies when the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) is medium or high, or when facility-level factors indicate increased risk. Because COVID-19 Community Levels do not always reflect the COVID-19 risk in correctional and detention facilities, DPSCS facilities should also assess facility-level factors that reflect its unique characteristics, operations, and populations to guide decisions about when to add or remove additional prevention measures.

These facility-level factors include:

- The facility's vaccination coverage;
- The current level of transmission within the facility;
- The risk of severe health outcomes for facility residents and staff; and
- The facility's structural and operational characteristics.

Enhanced COVID-19 prevention strategies include but are not limited to: enhanced ventilation, increased COVID-19 testing including routine screening testing, universal indoor masking, and physical distancing. DPSCS Facilities can apply any enhanced prevention strategies at any time, even when the CDC COVID-19 Community Level is low.

Appendix A – COVID-19 Everyday Operations v. Enhanced Prevention
 (from [Table 1, CDC Guidance](#))

Prevention Strategy	Everyday Operations	Enhanced Prevention
Up to date COVID-19 Vaccination	✓	
Standard Infection Control	✓	
Enhanced Ventilation		✓
Testing: Symptomatic	✓	
Testing: Close Contacts	✓	
Testing: All Residents at Intake (Or Routine Observation Period)	✓	
Testing: Before Transfer		✓
Testing: Before/After Community Visits		✓
Testing: Before Release		✓
Testing: Routine Screening		✓
Access to COVID-19 Therapeutics	✓	
Medical Isolation & Quarantine	✓	
Well-Fitting Masks/Respirators: Offer to Residents and Staff	✓	
Well-Fitting Masks/Respirators: Universal Indoor Masking		✓
Prepare for Outbreaks	✓	
Routine Observation Periods During Transfer/Release Protocols		✓
Minimize Movement & Contact Across Housing Units & with the Community		✓
Physical Distancing		✓