



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

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STATE OF MARYLAND

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUBJECT: Guidance for Correctional Operations on Day-to-Day COVID-19
Prevention and Strategies for Enhanced COVID-19 Prevention

Except for the Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center, the following procedures and guidance are in effect for all Department correctional facilities until notified of a change.

Day-to-Day COVID-19 Prevention in Correctional Operations and Correctional Facilities

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Additional Layers of Protection

PPE Requirements in Correctional Facilities.

- No PPE is required in a correctional facility except in accordance with:
 - The Department's Mandatory Respiratory Protection Program which will continue as normal in accordance with *ADM.055.0007—DPSCS Respiratory Protection Program*; and
 - The Department will continue to provide quality surgical masks for employees and inmates whose personal preference is to remain masked.

PPE Requirements in Medical and Mental Health Areas

- Medical and Mental Health Areas include a dispensary, treatment area, clinic, facility hospital, community hospital, and mental health unit.
- All employees working in a medical and mental health area shall remain masked at all times.
- All inmates, except when a healthcare provider advises otherwise, shall remain masked at all times while in a medical and mental health area.

PPE Requirements during Inmate Transport

- Medical Transport – All employees in a medical transport vehicle shall wear a surgical mask and an inmate should wear a surgical mask except when a healthcare provider advises otherwise.

- COVID-19 Medical Transport – Employees shall wear an N95 respirator and an inmate should wear a surgical mask except when a healthcare provider advises otherwise.
- Other Transport - Individuals whose personal preference is to remain masked may wear a mask.

Hand Hygiene

- The Department will continue to make hand sanitizer routinely available and easily accessible throughout the correctional facilities.
- Employees, inmates, and visitors are still encouraged to practice good hand hygiene by regularly washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer in the absence of hand washing facilities, especially after a person coughs, sneezes, or blows his or her nose; after using the bathroom; before eating or preparing food; before taking medication; and after touching garbage.

Social Distancing

- The practice of maintaining at least six feet of physical space between one individual and another is no longer required.

Infection Control Practices

- The environmental compliance and safety officers will ensure that locations where individuals are required to wear PPE are properly stocked with the necessary items.
- ESCOs will ensure that sufficient hygiene and cleaning supplies are available to all employees and inmates.
- As stated above, the Department's Mandatory Respiratory Protection Program will continue as normal in accordance with *ADM.055.0007— DPSCS Mandatory Respiratory Protection Program*.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

- As suggested by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Guidance dated August 17, 2022, anyone working in, residing in, or visiting a correctional facility is encouraged to be vaccinated and keep up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccines and recommended boosters.
- The Department shall continue to ensure that all inmates are offered all routine vaccinations and recommended boosters.
- To the extent that the MDH makes COVID-19 vaccines and recommended boosters available to the Department, the Department will continue to offer employees free vaccines and recommended boosters. For additional information on vaccines and boosters visit DBM's COVID-19 FAQ webpage.

COVID-19 Testing

- MDH's PCR COVID-19 testing of DPSCS employees, contractors, and vendors at correctional facilities will be discontinued effective September 12, 2022. Employees should continue testing until that date.
- At Home COVID-19 Rapid Antigen tests will be made available to DPSCS employees and authorized vendors and contractors. Details regarding how you will receive or request tests will be available soon.
- Diagnostic PCR testing will continue for inmates who:
 - Shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19;
 - Have been potentially exposed to another individual known to have contracted COVID-19; or
 - Have been identified as being in close contact with someone known to have contracted COVID-19.

Additional Day-to-Day Practices

- The Department will continue to waive inmate medical fees and co-pays.
- Each of the Department's correctional facilities shall identify and maintain isolation and quarantine housing for inmates recovering from or being evaluated for COVID-19.
- The Department will continue to follow the CDC's recommendations regarding isolation and quarantine periods for inmates.

Strategies for Enhanced COVID-19 Prevention in Correctional Operations and Correctional Facilities

Managing officials 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, managing officials 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.

Facility-level factors that may indicate that enhanced prevention measures are needed include, but are not limited to:

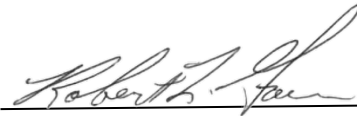
- The facility's vaccination coverage;
- The current level of transmission within the facility;
- The risk of severe health outcomes for the people in the facility; and

- The facility's structural and operational characteristics.

Enhanced 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.

Managing officials implementing enhanced prevention strategies should consult ADM.055.0012– Utilization Protective Equipment and Additional Levels of Protection.

Note: New COVID-19 procedures related to personnel matters are available in: *OOS IB # 2022-07 - COVID-19 Guidance for Personnel Management.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert L. Green", is written above a horizontal line.

Robert L. Green, Secretary

Distribution:

A – Facility/Agency Reference Set

S – All Correctional Facility Staff