



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

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ADH Guidance for Reducing Spread on COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) recommends the following actions when a staff member or inmate at an Arkansas Department of Corrections (DOC) facility (Prison or Community Correction Center) tests positive for COVID-19:

- Screen inmates daily upon entry to dining facility, and staff daily upon entry to the unit, for fever (temperature >100.4°F) and symptoms.
- Staff who screen positive for symptoms and/or fever are to return back home and isolate. Onsite medical personnel will swab the symptomatic employee outside the facility before they are sent home.
- Inmates who screen positive for symptoms and/or fever: immediately isolate and inform onsite medical personnel, who will inform ADH for priority testing.
- The barrack involved will be considered high risk if an inmate is considered a suspect or tests positive. ADH will guide on aggressive screening and testing in this situation.
- No movement of inmates across units (other than intakes following an isolation period or for an emergent security reason) and once in a unit no movement across various barracks (if practical).
- Dedicated staff assigned to barracks and no cross movement of staff to various other barracks (when practical based on staffing availability).
- All inmates and staff should be masked. Cloth masks are adequate.
- Make Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers available for staff and inmates (when practical from security and supply standpoint and under staff control) for as frequent use as possible.
- Wipe down of all areas in a unit with diluted bleach or similar product multiple times a day.
- Provide available N95 masks for all staff transporting inmates to hospitals and clinics, and cloth masks for inmates during transport. Once on hospital premises, the staff and inmate are to follow hospital guidelines.
- There will be close cooperation between DOC and ADH teams once any inmate or staff tests positive in a unit. ADH will guide DOC regarding appropriate next steps based on the current situation and circumstances.
- Staff that test positive can return to work during their isolation period under the following circumstances, after approval is received from the Secretary of Corrections and appropriate Division Director:
 - There is a critical shortage of workers and critical activities cannot occur without the use of these workers.

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- No workers that are symptomatic will be allowed to work, so they must daily pass the screening procedures at the facility entrance.
- Positive staff are only allowed to work on units with positive inmates.
- Positive staff will wear a mask at all times and monitor symptoms throughout their shift.
- Should a positive staff member become symptomatic (cough, fever, shortness of breath) they will be immediately removed from work duties and sent home.

NOTE: Positive staff who continue to work should avoid contact with other staff, isolate at home and avoid contact with others when commuting (e.g. no shared rides, no shopping)

Questions: Email us at ADH.HAI@ARKANSAS.GOV