

Restore Justice Foundation

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://restorejustice.org/how-you-can-help-people-who-are-incarcerated/>

Campaign and Advocacy

We need to treat people who are incarcerated compassionately. Restore Justice continues to push for our [original recommendations](#). But, we also believe we have to advocate for transparency.

The New York Times reported this week that 70 percent of the incarcerated people at one Ohio prison have tested positive for COVID-19. That report follows mass testing inside the prison, something we haven't seen evidence of in all but two prisons or jails in Illinois.

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Corrections must both ramp up testing and report a robust, accurate picture of the effect the virus is having in our prisons.

Despite recent early releases, Illinois prisons continue to be over capacity, and social distancing is impossible. In addition, our prison population is old and medically vulnerable. We have nearly 8,000 elderly people in our states custody and many more who are sick and/or disabled. In addition, Illinois prisons have been sued multiple times for providing inadequate healthcare. **These factors combine to make those who are incarcerated particularly vulnerable.**

Governor Pritzker acknowledged these troubling realities in a recent press conference. Please understand that correctional facilities are similar to long-term care facilities. They are congregate settings where large numbers of people eat, play, live in the same space. Being able to maintain distances is challenging. Once it's introduced, it's easy to spread. A lot of the strategies we employ in longer-term care, we also employ in correctional facilities, he said.

Now, we need to call on the Governor and county sheriffs to provide those who are incarcerated and all prison and jail staff with **personal protective equipment** (in addition to soap and cleaning supplies) and to **accurately and completely report COVID-19 statistics**. [Heres everything Ohios Department of Rehabilitation & Correction is reporting daily](#). Heres [an example from California](#).

If you want to **TAKE ACTION**, heres what you can do:

Restore Justice Foundation
PO Box 101099
Chicago, IL 60610

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Submit your email address to be notified of crucial legislative action items, fundraisers, and news about our progress.

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