

Testing Policies and Practices

In Pennsylvania, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Washington State

The table on the following pages provides information on testing policies and practices that have been made available on DOC websites for Pennsylvania, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Washington State. Some information has been pulled out from announcements so it is unclear whether these form part of a comprehensive policy or plan or are one-time/sporadic occurrences. Please read this information together with testing data that has been provided to you.

Information about testing policies and practices changes frequently. Feel free to rectify or supplement the information provided here with any additional press releases, media reports, or other relevant sources you may find. Please note any changes you make.

State	Pennsylvania	Arkansas	New Mexico	Washington
URL	COVID-19 Dashboard	COVID-19 Updates	COVID-19 Updates	COVID-19 Data
Does the DOC include their testing policies on dashboard?	Yes	No	Somewhat, in dated announcements about testing and outbreaks	Unclear, refers to CDC guidelines and Washington State Department of Health, no explicit policy mentioned
Are their policies in compliance with CDC testing guidelines?	The dashboard states that PA is fully compliant with CDC testing guidelines; inmates have access to robust medical staff/operations at both local and Central Office levels; a former chief of clinical services specializing in public health is serving as a special advisor to DOC leaders. Individual-specific information and testing details are not provided by DOC.	Unknown	Unknown, though a June 2020 press release references working with New Mexico Department of Health on a testing plan in response to an outbreak in Otero County Prison .	Not immediately obvious, though WA DOC includes CDC guidelines along with DOC actions. Need to compare to determine compliance.

What type of diagnostic tests do they use (excludes serology tests)?	Unknown on DOC website – but PA Department of Health prescribes PCR and Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing . Antigen Tests are not widely being used in the State.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown on DOC website – but refers to WA State DOC Covid-19 screening, testing and infection control guidelines.
Do they report total number of tests administered , total persons tested, or both?	Total number of tests administered	Unclear (but appears to be total persons tested)	Total number of tests administered	Both
Are they testing inmates?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Under what conditions do they initiate tests for inmates?	Transfers, releases, hospital surveillance (when tested while gathering other medical information/outbreaks), symptomatic	Unknown	Unknown, some scattered information on dated announcements	Unknown
Are they testing staff, and is testing voluntary or mandatory?	Yes, voluntary (Higher positive rate among staff because testing is voluntary, that is, when they show symptoms)	Yes, unknown. Website only reports tested positive/not recovered is reported	Yes, unknown. According to May 8 announcement all staff were tested	Yes, unknown. Announcement on Oct 14 says there was a serial testing conducted for Staff
Do they break down data by facility, or only statewide?	By facility	Statewide only	Statewide only	Statewide only

Notes	PA has a dashboard where it is regularly updating information	Arkansas puts out weekly image with only info on inmates tested, positives recovered, positives not recovered and staff positives not recovered	New Mexico provides breakdown of some information by facilities that it updates daily. Some valuable information buried in announcements	Provides some information by facilities. Staff testing information is missing.
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