COVID-19: What to expect at the Utah Department of Corrections

The Utah Department of Corrections is dedicated to your safety and success, which includes your health. Our staff are trained on the most recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to prevent and manage suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 within a correctional environment.

Prevention

We encourage you to continue following CDC protocols regarding prevention:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often
- Practice social distancing of at least six feet as much as you possibly can
- Use your face covering when outside your cell
- · Avoid touching your face
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (use a tissue or your upper sleeve, not your hands)
- Frequently wipe down your cell and/or section using cleaning products provided by UDC

Suspected

When we suspect a case of COVID-19 within a section or facility, our staff will move very quickly to contain any potential spread, which will likely include:

- Quarantining the section
- Potentially locking down the facility until results can be confirmed
- Providing face coverings to all offenders
- Providing protective equipment for our officers and medical staff
- Isolating the potentially infected incarcerated individual
- Working with local health officials on rapid testing, contact tracing, and other quarantine measures

Confirmed

If you test positive, or are placed in a 14-day quarantined section, you will likely remain in that designated area until you no longer test positive, or otherwise designated. Containing potential spread may include:

- Out-of-cell opportunities on the unit will be run one cell at a time, and will be limited to personal hygiene and telephone access
- Requirement to wear a face covering when out-of-cell
- Implementing more stringent cleaning and sanitation protocols, which include more frequent facility and cell cleanings, and safe ways to have clothing laundered and meals delivered
- Health care providers will conduct frequent checks on all those in the section



COVID-19: How to Use a Face Covering at the Utah Department of Corrections

Your safety is paramount, and based on recent recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we are working to provide each of you with several reusable, washable face coverings over the next couple weeks. You will begin to see staff, and other inmates, wearing a face covering. Please do not be alarmed. This is being done as a preventative measure, not as an indication that we have a case of COVID-19 in the prison facility.

CDC Recommendations

- New guidance from the CDC indicates that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms ("asymptomatic") and that even those who eventually develop symptoms ("pre-symptomatic") can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms.
- In light of this new evidence, the CDC now recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.



How to take care of your face covering

Once you receive your face covering, it's important to understand how to properly use and maintain it.

- First, please ensure that your face covering is clearly marked with your offender number.
- The face covering should fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face, and be secured with ear loops or ties.
- When you receive your first face covering, you will be required to self-launder.
- Upon receiving your second face covering, you will have the option to self-launder or to put it through with standard laundry services.
- In regards to self-care, the CDC recommends washing the face covering in warm, soapy water, and to wash more frequently if you have more movement within the facility.
- We'd like to especially thank our UCI team who are working hard to produce multiple face coverings for all inmates and staff.

