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COVID-19 (Corona Virus)

Thank you to our staff and residents for continuing to go above and beyond to keep our facilities clean and safe! All of your hard work is appreciated!



COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the NHDOC operate the county jails or federal prisons?

No, the NHDOC has jurisdiction over the New Hampshire State Prison for Men (NHSP-M), the New Hampshire Correctional Facility for Women (NHCFW), the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility (NNHCF), the Transitional Work Center (TWC) and the Transitional Housing Units (Calumet, North End and Shea Farm). County jails are operated by the individual counties. Federal prisons are operated by the federal government – Bureau of prisons. For more information on the counties in the State of New Hampshire, go to www.nhcounties.org/. For more information on the federal prisons, go to <https://www.bop.gov/>.

How is the NHDOC keeping the facilities sanitized?

The Department has always been regimented in keeping facilities sanitized. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) we began in early March, at all NHDOC facilities, to engage in additional sanitization measures above the already elevated measures in place due to cold and flu season. We ensured the disinfectant used in all our facilities - in addition to bleach - is effective against COVID-19.

What are the steps in place if staff or residents show signs of COVID-19?

If a staff member shows any symptom of COVID 19 - fever, cough, shortness of breath - or indicates on the screening form they have been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or has recently traveled based on CDC guidance, that staff member will be directed to go home and


- a. call their healthcare provider or
- b. call their HR representative if they do not have symptoms but need to quarantine due to close contact or travel.

Residents who show any sign of COVID-19 will be isolated and will be attended to by a medical staff member.

Who will receive face masks?

Surgical masks will be used for any resident who is symptomatic of COVID-19. Residents with confirmed COVID-19 who are outside of their designated isolation unit, or in the presence of any staff member treating or escorting them. Fabric masks can be substituted for surgical masks in the above scenarios when surgical mask supplies are not available. N95 masks are to be used by medical staff with residents who are confirmed positive of COVID-19 residents, or suspected COVID-19 residents during assessment and treatment.

What are the requirements for administrative home confinement (AHC) during the COVID-19 crisis?

The requirements for AHC have not changed. Residents must meet all requirements of [PPD 805.01](#)  for consideration. The PPD is available to residents on their tablets.

Can residents be released on medical parole?

In accordance with [RSA 651-A:10-a](#), the Commissioner and the Director of Medical and Forensic services may recommend to the Adult Parole Board, individuals who meet the conditions for medical parole.

How is the NHDOC engaging in physical distancing?

The Department has implemented the recommendations as outlined by the CDC for Correctional and Detention Facilities and made operational adjustments accordingly to include but not limited to:

- Increased space between individuals waiting in lines and waiting areas, adjusting locations of waiting to larger spaces, moved furniture apart when not affixed to the floor.
- Created recreational opportunities where individuals can spread out.
- Stagger time in recreation spaces and schedule them by living unit.
- Reduce number allowed in groups at one time to 10 or under.
- Adjusted meal times and movements.
- Implemented alternatives as appropriate to existing group activities.
- Rearrange schedule movements to minimize mixing of individuals from different housing areas.

What is being done for the medically higher-risk residents in custody?

In addition to increasing sanitization within facilities, staff are amplifying efforts to both monitor and reduce potential exposure and transmission of the virus. Individuals who demonstrate symptoms will be provided with PPE as medically directed, and either quarantined, medically isolated, or transferred to a hospital. A medical team has identified higher-risk residents and cell-feeds are being provided to these residents.

Does the NHDOC have a plan to quarantine individuals should there be a positive case in any of the facilities?

Yes, the facilities have plans in place if we have positive or suspected cases of COVID-19 to engage in medical isolation or quarantine as appropriate to the case. Frequent drills are occurring in the facilities to ensure staff know how to respond.

What steps are you taking to protect staff and residents?

The NHDOC is taking every precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities. Including but not limited to:

- Providing COVID-19 screenings including temperature checks of all individuals entering NHDOC prison facilities and the Secure Psychiatric Unit.
- Enhancing sanitization and providing employees and residents access to sanitization products
- Adhering to the CDC's physical distancing guidelines in prison activities
- Restricting transfers from other correctional facilities
- Suspending visitations and volunteers
- Converted to digital parole hearings

[Attorney Client Communication](#) 

Is the NHDOC looking at national trends in corrections for guidance?

The NHDOC has aligned with CDC guidelines. We are also monitoring NH DHHS publications and other public health resources to assist us in making quick and responsive operational adjustments with a focus on the health and wellness of our staff and residents.

Worksite	# Staff Positive		# Residents Tested****	# Residents Positive
NHCF-W	1		2	0
NNHCF	0		1	0
NHSP-M	5		3	0
TWC & THU's*	0		0	0
SPU & RTU	0		0	0
Field Services**	0	Resident Total	6	0
All other staff worksites***	0	COVID-19 Testing		
Staff Total	6			

Table data as of April 18, 2020

April 17, 2020

A NHSP-M staff member working April 17th became symptomatic, left the facility and tested positive later that day. The individual will remain out of the workplace and will not return until medically cleared.

A NHSP-M staff member who last worked April 16th, 2020 reported a positive test result on April 17, 2020 from a test conducted April 17, 2020. The individual will remain out of the workplace and will not return until medically cleared.

A NHSP-M staff member who last worked April 13, 2020 reported a positive test result on April 16, 2020 from a test conducted April 14, 2020. The individual will remain out of the workplace and will not return until medically cleared.

April 14, 2020

A NHSP-M staff member who last worked April 10, 2020 reported a positive test result on April 14, 2020 from a test conducted April 11, 2020. The individual will remain out of the workplace and will not return until medically cleared.

April 9, 2020

A NHSP-M staff member who last worked March 26, 2020 reported a positive test result on April 9, 2020 from a test conducted April 8, 2020. The individual will remain out of the workplace and will not return until medically cleared.

April 6, 2020

A NHSP-M staff member who had last worked March 25, 2020 and was turned away due to the screening process on April 1, 2020 reported that they tested positive on April 3, 2020. The individual will remain out of the workplace and will not return until medically cleared.

* Transitional Work Center / Transitional Housing Units (Shea Farm, Calumet House, North End House)

** Residents on Probation and Parole (Field Services) would get tested in the community therefore no data is available.

*** All other worksites (e.g. headquarters, warehouse)

**** Residents are only tested when they present with symptoms outlined per the CDC guidelines