



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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Bureau of Prisons Update on COVID-19

WASHINGTON -- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) is taking aggressive steps to protect the safety and security of all staff, and inmates, as well as visitors and members of the public. This response is the Bureau's top priority. Director Michael Carvajal has directed the Bureau to take a comprehensive approach to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, the Bureau instituted significant measures to prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading in its facilities. These measures include temporary restrictions on visitation, restricting inmate movement to only required and mission-essential transfers, increased health screening of staff and inmates, and increased sanitary measures. In addition, all Bureau facilities have been directed to designate available space for isolation and quarantine for inmates who have been exposed to or have symptoms of the virus.

The Bureau has also instituted a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all new inmates entering the Bureau from outside a Bureau facility. The Bureau is actively working with the US Marshals Service, the federal courts, and State and local correctional institutions to mitigate the risk of exposure in pre-trial detention and jail facilities and to maximize the safe transfer of inmates into Bureau custody.

The Bureau is also working with the courts and the US Marshals Service to reduce transmission risks from movement for court proceedings, with options such as the use of video conferencing.

The Bureau is proud to serve the public in concert with its other law enforcement partners, as we work to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 to staff, inmates, and the public.

The Bureau's Actions to Address the COVID-19 Threat:

Since January 2020, the Bureau has implemented its approved Pandemic Influenza contingency plan, modified for COVID-19. The Bureau has been coordinating its COVID-19 efforts using subject-matter experts and guidance from the Office of the Vice President, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The Bureau has proceeded in three phases:

Phase 1: In January 2020, the Bureau established a task force to begin strategic planning for COVID-19, and to build on the Bureau's already existing procedures for pandemics.

Phase 2: On March 13, 2020, the agency issued directives suspending social and legal visits, curtailing movement, cancelling staff travel and training, limiting access for contractors and volunteers, and established enhanced screening for staff and inmates for locations with sustained community transmission and at all medical centers. All facilities were placed on modified operations to maximize social distancing in our facilities, as much as practicable. This modification includes staggered meal times and staggered recreation times, for example, in order to limit congregating. Additionally, the Bureau established quarantine and isolation procedures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Phase 3: On March 18, 2020, the Bureau implemented an action plan for Bureau locations that perform administrative services, which followed DOJ, OMB and OPM guidance for maximizing telework. Additionally, as part of the Pandemic Influenza contingency plan, all cleaning, sanitation, and medical supplies have been inventoried. Ample supplies are on hand and ready to be distributed or moved to any facility as deemed necessary. As we continue to respond, the Bureau has placed additional orders for these supplies, in case of a protracted event.

The Bureau will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp

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