

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF NASSAU

Sheriff's Memo

To: INMATE POPULATION, YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

From: SHERIFF DZURENDA

Date: APRIL 10, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 UPDATE

It has been just over a month that County Executive Laura Curran declared Nassau County under the Guidelines of the State of Emergency with this horrific COVID-19 pandemic. I want everyone to be rest assured that the Nassau County Sheriff's Department is doing everything possible to protect you, your family, loved ones or friends that may be incarcerated in the Correctional Center.

To help you better understand the extent of my efforts, I would like to share with you a few emergency measures that have been implemented to prevent, contain or reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus, as follows;

- Two full time cleaning crews have been set around the clock to clean all areas of the Facility and Units with CDC approved disinfectant that kills the virus.
- Any new admit who is entering the Correctional Center is immediately medically screened and COVID-19 tested. If positive, they are quarantined in a separate housing area and they are closely monitored by the health care provider. They are not housed with or near the existing inmate population, to ensure that our current population is not exposed.
- All new admits that test negative are housed in a separate unit much like being quarantined, for a minimum of 14 days to ensure they do not subsequently show symptoms during the incubation period. This is done to ensure that our current population is not exposed.
- We also enforce social distancing with the entire population. We do not allow large group activity and we only let out small groups at a time of 6-10 to outdoor recreation. We are minimizing unnecessary contact and these smaller groups typically do not mix with other small groups going outdoors. Inmates are going outside for fresh air, but for less time than usual due to allowing one small group in the recreation yard at a time.
- Any inmate showing a symptom of the virus, is immediately examined by the health care provider. If a symptom is detected, the inmate is moved into the Medical Infirmary to be quarantined and given a COVID-19 test. If the test comes back positive, they are moved into a quarantined housing unit for those that are positive. They are closely monitored and treated by medical personnel. The health care provider will make any necessary clinical decision regarding local hospital referral. The same Department of Health guidelines that are being used in our communities are what we're using for the inmate population. Our goal is to prevent, contain or reduce the possibility of exposure and keep everyone safe.

Currently, all visits, programs, and services that involve outside individuals coming into the Correctional Center have been cancelled until further notice. This is done to minimize the number of people entering our buildings with the intention of preventing unnecessary exposure of both inmates and staff. The number of on duty personnel has also been reduced to essential personnel only for the same reason. To ensure contact between the inmate and their loved ones or support in the community continues, I have made arrangements for inmates to make free phone calls for added communication. There has been no interruption in US Mail services, so I encourage you to write to friends and loved ones here at the Correctional Center.

We also have a concern for staff. We need to protect staff from contracting the virus, as well as, prevent the introduction of the virus into the Correctional Center. All staff has the opportunity for temperature screening upon entering the facility or anytime upon request. Infrared touchless thermometers are stationed throughout the Facility for their use. Anyone with a sign or symptom is encouraged to not come to work. Staff displaying symptoms are sent to be immediately tested for the COVID-19 virus and then self quarantined pursuant to Department of Health (DOH) guidelines. Staff must be cleared before returning to work in accordance to the CDC and DOH guidelines.

We are doing the best we can to protect staff, the inmates, and community during this crisis and receiving the most up to date protocols from the Department of Health to ensure we stay on top of this deadly virus. I rest assure you that we are prepared to handle this crisis and are doing everything we can to keep everyone healthy. We will be following the New York State guidelines as to when we can start relaxing on the restrictions and eventually go back to full operations. I would also like to mention that even with Courts closed or in limited use, we are processing individuals without delay. Our Bail Window is open everyday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm or you can come to the gate house at our entrance to bail an inmate out 24 hours a day.