



Utah Department of Corrections

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

August 20, 2021

Dear Incarcerated Individual,

We are excited that in-person opportunities such as programming, visiting, volunteer and religious services are opening up again at our correctional facilities.

As of August 18, 86 percent of incarcerated individuals at the Utah State Prison (USP) in Draper have been vaccinated and 76 percent have been vaccinated at the Central Utah Correctional Facility (CUCF) in Gunnison.

We are still working to adhere to CDC guidelines. It's important to recognize that the pandemic remains a fluid situation.

We strongly encourage you to immediately report if you have COVID-like symptoms. Our goal is to prevent the spread of recent variants within our facilities, so that we can stay open and fully operational. One of the best ways to do that is to report symptoms and to test, test and test.

On August 16, two individuals sharing a cell within the Ironwood Facility at the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison reported COVID-like symptoms. Staff did rapid tests of both individuals and results for both came back positive. Both individuals were moved to isolation and the section was placed on quarantine.

At this time, all individuals in the housing section who were fully vaccinated have been tested and cleared from quarantine.

It's important to note that based on COVID-19 protocols and

discussion with state and local health officials, individuals who are unvaccinated in the section are being tested, and will remain on quarantine for at least two weeks. Quarantine may be extended depending on testing results over the next couple weeks.

As a reminder to those that have not been vaccinated, you can request a vaccination by submitting an Inmate Care Request form (ICR), which is available in your housing units.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Such vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA).

Millions of people in the United States have received the vaccines, and these vaccines will undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Please continue to be vigilant and patient as we work through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brian Nielson
Executive Director
Utah Department of Corrections



Please review the information below on recent Department updates related to COVID-19

..... **Free Phone Calls Update**

In March 2020 the Utah Department of Corrections suspended visiting as a preventative measure to inhibit the spread of COVID-19. Shortly after, we offered individuals at the Utah State Prison in Draper and the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison 10 free 15-minute phone calls per week.

Over the last few months, we've launched video visiting for the first time in our correctional facilities and we've returned to allowing in-person visits. We're excited to share that we will now permanently offer video visiting.

Over the next few months, the Department will begin to phase out the free phone calls.

The calls will phase out over the next 150 days using the following schedule:

- September 1—calls drop to 8 free calls per week
- October 1—calls drop to 6 free calls per week
- November 1—calls drop to 4 free calls per week
- January 1—calls drop to 1 free call per week
- After January 1, 2022, you will receive one free call per week. This one free call will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

..... **Face Coverings Guidance**

Please continue to wear a cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

The face covering should fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face, and be secured with ear loops or ties. 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. If your face covering shows significant wear or damage that prevents its effectiveness, please communicate with officers in your housing unit regarding a replacement.

..... **Visiting Update**

Beginning August 1, in-person visiting changed to Friday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Each visit will be approximately 1.5 hours.

Video visiting will occur Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Each visit will be approximately 30 minutes.

Both video and in-person visits will still need to be scheduled by your approved family or friends.

We are excited to announce that with these changes, we have been able to increase the amount of in-person and video visits available each month based on privilege level.

..... **Medical Information Release Form**

In order for your family to be able to receive medical updates directly from a health provider, you must fill out an Authorization to Formally Discuss Health Information Form, which can be obtained from your case manager.

You will need to fill out the form, and have your caseworker notarize it and then submit it to the Clinical Services Bureau.

A designated staff member at the Bureau will make contact with the person you've designated to verify information and set up a passcode to be used when contacting the Bureau. Please remember that each authorization is good for only 90 days, and will need to be renewed through the same process when it expires.

