



Utah Department of Corrections

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

July 10, 2020

Dear Incarcerated Individual,

I want to first express our appreciation for all that you're doing and enduring at this critical time for both our nation and our state to keep yourselves and those around you safe and healthy.

At this time, we have had three confirmed cases within our two correctional facilities, all of which are now considered recovered based on guidance provided from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and local health officials.

All three confirmed cases were intakes from county jails. They were cohort-ed and tested upon their arrival at our facilities, which was when they were confirmed to be positive for COVID-19. As per protocol, we worked closely with local health officials and all three incarcerated individuals were medically isolated, while still maintaining some communication with their families.

We have had four staff members who work within our facilities test positive as well. All staff members worked closely with our human resources team and local health officials while isolating. All four are now considered recovered.

We confirmed last week that 23 state inmates tested positive for COVID-19 at the Washington County Jail. We are coordinating with the jail and local health officials at this time.

We continue to actively monitor COVID-19 and its impact on those we supervise, and we are communicating regularly with local and state health officials.

As cases of COVID-19 continue to increase in Utah, the state

has put greater emphasis on the use of face coverings. Governor Gary R. Herbert is now requiring that all state employees wear a face covering in a state facility with some exceptions regarding correctional facilities.

We strongly encourage you to continue wearing your face covering. On the back of this newsletter, you will find further guidance, along with other reminders regarding prevention and containment.

We've also provided an update on visiting and volunteer services, which remain suspended through August, at which time we will reevaluate.

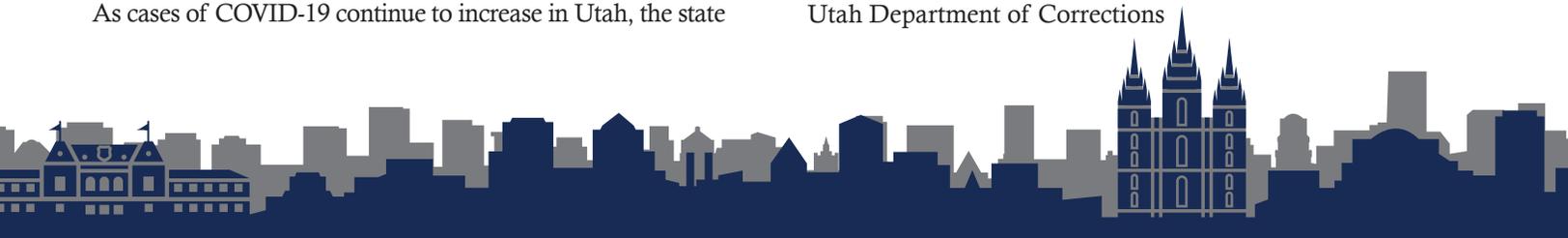
Transparency continues to be a top priority, and we encourage you to continue utilizing your case managers or officers in your area if you have concerns or questions.

Please know that your safety and health are top priority, while we will continue to find innovative ways to help you on your journey to successfully exit the criminal justice system.

Regards,

Mike Haddon

Executive Director
Utah Department of Corrections



Prevention and Containment Planning

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

- 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 respond 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 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 are 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

Face Covering Guidance

- 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 face covering, you will be required to self-laundry.
- Upon receiving your second face covering, you will have the option to self-laundry 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.
- If your face covering shows significant wear or damage that prevents its effectiveness, please communicate with the officer in your housing unit regarding a replacement.

Visiting Update

We want you to know that we are actively exploring options for video visiting, while we continue to suspend visiting at the Utah State Prison and the Central Utah Correctional Facility.

Based on the Governor's Color-Coded Health Guidance System, our facilities continue to operate at a high-risk level, as incarcerated individuals live in a community-based environment.

Our intent is to set up something more permanent within our correctional facility in Gunnison, so we can offer this supplementary form of communication to incarcerated individuals for years to come.

Our correctional facility in Draper is more complicated. While we are moving as quickly as we can, there are roadblocks along the way including a lack of WiFi access points or poor cellular signal within prison housing. We have technicians identifying locations for access via cellular service, and we are hoping to implement something in the near future.

We will be moving to a new facility in Salt Lake City in the next two years, which will be equipped with video visiting.

It's also important to note that while we are working to add this additional communication channel, we will not be eliminating in-person visiting at any of our facilities--present and future.