



# Utah Department of Corrections

*Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update*

October 5, 2020

*Dear Incarcerated Individual,*

I first want to thank you for all that you've done to help us prevent the spread of COVID-19. I know that the last six months have been hard, especially with visiting and other opportunities suspended.

On September 23, two inmates at the Utah State Prison in Draper rapid tested positive for COVID-19. This past Thursday and Friday, the Utah State Health Department aided UDC in the mass testing of Wasatch A-Block and B-Block. Currently, 327 incarcerated individuals are housed in those two blocks.

There are now 196 active cases of COVID-19 at the Utah State Prison in Draper. All confirmed cases have been in the Wasatch Facility A-Block and B-Block, or through our intake process. Thus far, the vast majority of incarcerated individuals who have tested positive are either asymptomatic or exhibiting minor symptoms.

Our medical team continues to closely monitor the situation, and is conducting frequent medical and mental health checks on those that are in designated quarantine and isolation areas.

Until now, USP and CUCF have not had a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the general incarcerated population. All past confirmed cases have been through new prison intakes who have been promptly tested upon arrival and quarantined for 14 days; or among incarcerated individuals in county jails that UDC contracts with to house a portion of the state's incarcerated population.

UDC is following and exceeding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, and

coordinating closely with state and local health officials to ensure that all containment steps are taken, which include, coordinating with local health officials on quarantine and isolation procedures, conducting contact tracing, testing, and ensuring that proper cleaning protocols are implemented.

On the back of this update is general information regarding prevention and containment; a reminder on how to use and wash your face covering; and an update on video visitation.

We anticipate that you will continue to have access to phones, but would add that access may be more limited depending on your housing location.

Transparency and communication remain a critical part of our response to COVID-19. If you would like your family to be able to receive medical updates directly from a health provider, please ask your case manager or custody staff for the Authorization to Formally Discuss Health Information Form. This form is good for 90 days.

We truly appreciate your patience. We take this potential outbreak very seriously, and your safety and health are the top priority.

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 (Observation/Quarantine)***

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 or facility
- Potentially locking down the facility until results can be confirmed
- Providing additional protective equipment for our officers and medical staff as they move throughout the facility
- Isolating the potentially infected incarcerated individual(s)
- Working with local health officials on rapid testing, contact tracing, and other quarantine measures

### ***Confirmed (Isolation)***

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

---

### ***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.
- With your face covering, you will have the option to self-launder 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***

Our Department, along with the aid of the Utah Department of Technology Services, continues to make steady progress in implementing video visiting. Security plans are being solidified, tablets have been ordered, and bandwidth capabilities are being tested.

We remain optimistic that video visiting will begin in the next few weeks.

Initial implementation will likely be slow as we begin piloting

this new opportunity. Once in full motion, we anticipate that each incarcerated individual will be given two 30-minute video visits per month, if their privilege level allows.

We encourage families and friends to continue submitting their visiting renewal forms by mail. We anticipate that there will be some grace period in effect for a designated amount of time to accommodate renewal requests to make it through the system.