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On March 16th, 2021 Carl Avery and McKenna Neville from the UHERT team and Amelia

Salmanson from UDOH visited the Draper State Prison to provide the prison with an expert's opinion on current COVID operating procedures. The prison team that we met with included: Colleen Guymon, the Director of Nursing, Tony Washington, the Clinical Service Bureau Director, Eric DiFrancesco, RN, and several correctional officers.

Overall, the prison is doing an excellent job adhering to CDC guidelines for prisons. They have a well delineated pandemic plan with up-to-date COVID guidelines. On March 23, 2021, Carl Avery and Amelia Salmanson visited the Gunnison location. Below is a summary of both locations and some suggestions.

Throughout the prison, all staff members wear KN95s and eye protection. This is an excellent level of safety. If the prison chose, the minimal level of PPE could change to a surgical mask and eyewear while interacting with non-COVID positive inmates (see Table 1 below). Eye protection was worn less frequently in the Gunnison location and we recommend reinforcement of the importance of wearing it while on shift. Staff members are assigned the same area to minimize transmission between locations. Staff members are screened with temperature checks and questions prior to starting their shift.

**Table 1** on this CDC page gives a good overview of PPE requirements: [Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities | CDC](#)

Inmates are given cloth face coverings and are asked to wear them at all times when out of their cells.

Dental Clinic: Has increased PPE requirements for all staff and requires inmates to wear a mask until actively being examined. No dental staff have tested positive for COVID19 during the pandemic.

New inmate processing: Require new inmates to take a COVID test within 24hrs of admittance. Inmates remain quarantined in the assigned location for 14 days and require a second negative COVID test before being released into other areas of the prison.

Medical clinic: Frequent high touch cleaning, minimum PPE at all times, and additional PPE as needed when caring for known positive patients or with aerosolizing procedures. Currently changing KN95 as needed or every 3-4 shifts. Recommend a new KN95 for every medical staff member or anyone working on the COVID units every shift if resources permit.

In COVID areas, staff wear tyvek suits or gowns with gloves, booties, and N95s or KN95s. If the staff member is directly interacting with an inmate or helping with an aerosol procedure, they wear PAPRs. They have well set up donning and doffing areas. Recommend labeling when PAPER filters are changed so they may be changed regularly per guidelines.

We also recommended that staff members wear full PPE no longer than 4 hours before taking a 20-30 minute break to rest and rehydrate. Current level of PPE is on par or higher than CDC recommendations and could change if the prison chooses to reevaluate their processes. For example, hoods do not need to be worn with the tyvek suits and taping the gloves and sleeves together is not required either. Booties are optional PPE. Gowns are another good option if available (they are less hot and often more tolerable).

For maintenance: Continue frequent changing of furnace filters. Wear full PPE (gown, gloves, eye protection, and N95/PAPRs) when changing and disposing of the filters. Make sure staff are doffing PPE correctly.

Food services: Proper processing in both locations. The Draper location is using disposable trays and utensils for COVID areas and regular trays and utensils otherwise; Gunnison is using disposable trays and utensils for all inmates. Non-disposable food service items are ok to use throughout the prison. Individuals should wear gloves while handling items and wash “following food safety requirements.”

**Check light icon Food service items** tab on the main CDC webpage [Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities | CDC](#) Found above the laundry specifications.

Laundry is gathered into a water soluble bag by individuals wearing full PPE. The bag is then thrown directly into the washer. This is a good, safe practice.

For library books and mail: There is not a lot of CDC guidance on how long to wait before sending mail or putting library books back into circulation. However, national and professional organizations have come up with their own processes that seem to work well (like the ALA,

American Library Association, and NYU Library). We do know that the SARS-COV-2 Virus does not last long (hours vs days) on surfaces or on paper, therefore, nothing needs to be thrown away; it can safely be reintegrated back into regulation circulation. The prison is a part of the Utah State Library Division. McKenna contacted the library and is waiting to hear back on them about current best practices. She will forward these when she gets them.

Vaccines: The prison has a plan in place to streamline vaccine administration when vaccines are available. Amelia is working closely with the UDOH to prioritize vaccines to the inmate population. UHERT can provide manpower for administration if necessary.