



# Utah Department of Corrections

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

May 8, 2020

*Dear Incarcerated Individual,*

At this time there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within either of our two correctional facilities, and working closely with state health officials, we are continuing to look at our operations and how we can continue to prevent the potential spread of the virus COVID-19 within our facilities.

Last week, Governor Herbert, upon the recommendation of the Utah COVID-19 Community Task Force, announced that the Color-coded Health Guidance System would move from a high to moderate risk level.

Generally speaking, this move will open the state's economy a little more meaning that as long as recommended protocols are followed the general public will be able to dine-in at restaurants, visit their barber, meet in groups of up to 20 and other adjustments. Based on the communication from the Governor's office, the moderate risk level may remain in effect for an extended period of time, and could extend through the summer and into early fall.

While the State of Utah will begin to open up a little more over the next couple months, these guidelines will not directly correlate with how we will operate within our correctional facilities. In a congregate and confined environment like prison or community correctional centers, it's difficult to maintain social distancing, and it's also more difficult to isolate and contain the potential spread of COVID-19.

At this time we will not be rolling back many of the changes

that we've implemented in the last couple months; however, we are exploring innovative approaches on how we can again offer opportunities for programming, visiting, and volunteer and religious services. This approach is consistent with guidance from State public health officials and practice in Correctional operations across the nation.

We ask for your continued patience at this time, and please know that your safety and health continue to be our top priority.

If you have questions, case managers will continue to be made available and will be walking the floor of housing units daily to answer questions concerning parole hearings, release dates, etc. If a specific question can't be answered at that time, the question will be given to your regular case manager for follow up. In addition, staff will be available to answer questions.

Thank YOU for all you are doing to flatten the curve, and to keep yourself and others around you safe.

Regards,

Executive Director  
Utah Department of Corrections

