



Utah Department of Corrections

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Incarcerated Individual,

We want you to know that we are working hard to keep you safe, while still providing avenues for programming, communication, recreation and health services.

Our Department is working collaboratively with state partners — including the Lieutenant Governor’s task force — to address COVID-19 in Utah.

The safety of incarcerated individuals or those on supervision, along with our staff, is paramount.

We are continuing to implement strategies for prevention. Actions include posting fliers throughout our facilities on preventative steps and sharing information with staff and offenders, and increasing the frequency of cleanings.

As COVID-19 cases in Utah continue to increase, please know that we have outbreak strategies in place, which include prompt medical care and testing, and quarantining or isolating staff or incarcerated individuals.

As this situation continues to evolve, we appreciate your patience, and we ask that if you have questions to please communicate with your case manager or an available staff member.

Regards,

Mike Haddon,

Executive Director
Utah Department of Corrections



Updates

Visiting

Due to the evolving situation with COVID-19, visiting will remain on hold through April 26 at which time we will reevaluate. In the meantime, the we will continue to offer 10 free 15-minute phone calls per week to each inmate.

In addition, Public Information Panels and volunteer activities continue to be postponed until further notice.

Cleaning

Staff members have been given directions in terms of sanitization, proper personal spacing and use of protective gear. Inmate cleaning crews have been given a detergent/disinfectant solution to clean cells and all common areas of housing units, including tables, chairs and phones.

A robust cleaning schedule has been implemented to thwart any possible contamination, with at least one deep cleaning

Screening

Both staff and new intakes are being screened daily before entering UDC facilities. Those that may potentially pose a risk are being given further tests. Those that do not meet established standards will be sent home or quarantined.

In addition, movement between housing units and other facilities is being limited to minimize possible exposure. Regular meetings between case managers and offenders will continue.

Education

While we have not suspended education programs, area school entities – including Salt Lake Community College, the University of Utah and Davis Technical College – have done so.

Internal programming (substance abuse and sex offender treatment) will continue. Class sizes are being reduced and social distancing will be practiced. Offenders can opt out of classes over virus fears. However, doing so may delay program completion. Our goal is to maintain programming activity as much as possible.

Communications

Above all, we want to be transparent about what is taking place inside the facilities. We also want to be able to help ease concerns. A case manager 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 the offender's regular case manager for follow up. In addition, staff will be available to answer questions.

Faith Hotline

Starting now, you can contact a UDC chaplain by phone for free.

801-576-RELI (or 7354)

