



Utah Department of Corrections

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

December 3, 2021

Dear Incarcerated Individual,

I want to express my appreciation to you for your patience and resilience. We have endured nearly two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For many of you, it may feel like things did last year. It was this time last year that we were in the midst of an outbreak as we are now.

There are more than 700 individuals on quarantine (those not COVID-19 positive but have been exposed to the virus) at the Utah State Prison in Draper and 485 individuals at the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison. More than 100 individuals are currently in isolation (those who have tested positive for COVID-19) at USP and 11 at CUCF.

Several individuals have been hospitalized due to COVID-19 over the past couple weeks. One individual has passed away.

All of the individuals who have required greater care at an outside facility were either unvaccinated or medically compromised prior to testing positive for COVID-19.

I encourage all of you to please get the COVID-19 vaccine, if you have not done so already. Vaccines are not mandatory and are not guaranteed to prevent getting COVID-19. However, the research shows that they often significantly affect your outcome for the better.

You can request a vaccine by submitting an Inmate Care Request form (ICR), which is available in your housing unit.

We have begun to roll out the COVID-19 booster vaccine, and in the coming weeks we anticipate that all incarcerated individuals will be offered this opportunity.

We've been very fortunate during this latest outbreak to have greater resources than last year to combat the virus, including the COVID-19 vaccine, the COVID-19 vaccine booster, and

monoclonal antibody treatments for those who qualify.

We continue to adhere to CDC protocols, and we continue to work closely with state and local health officials.

Quarantine and isolation protocols are being followed, and we are testing frequently.

Because spread is so high in the community — even for those who are vaccinated — protocols require that all individuals quarantine and isolate regardless of vaccine status.

As a reminder, isolation is for those who test positive and lasts a minimum of 10 days. Quarantine is for those who have a potential exposure to COVID-19 and is a minimum of 14 days.

Please help us in our efforts to prevent further spread of COVID-19 by wearing your cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

I hope you know that we are doing everything we can to keep our facilities as operational as possible, including access to phones, visiting and programming.

We thank you for your patience and wish you well during this holiday season.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Nielson', written in a cursive style.

Brian Nielson
Executive Director
Utah Department of Corrections

