



Utah Department of Corrections

February 4, 2022

Dear Incarcerated Individual,

It's been nearly two years since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. It's been two years since everyone in Utah has worked to follow COVID-19 protocols while also maintaining some sense of normalcy. It's been two years of limited operations within correctional facilities across the nation, including a reduction and oftentimes a suspension in visiting, programming and religious services.

We recognize the toll that this can take.

We remain positive that in the coming weeks we will hopefully be able to return to more normalized operations.

In the meantime, we continue to experience outbreaks within our facilities and we ask that all of you continue to follow COVID-19 precautions.

As the Omicron variant of COVID-19 spreads at a much higher rate than past variants, we encourage everyone to continue wearing their mask.

The Utah Department of Health has donated N95 masks to be distributed to those housed at the Utah State Prison in Draper and the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison.

Each week you may replace your N95 mask for a new one. Should your mask wear out before the week elapses, you will need to wear your cloth face covering.

As a reminder, your mask needs to be worn any time you are out of your cell or out of your bunk for those in dormitory-style housing.

Along with this newsletter, we've provided a document from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to appropriately wear your N95 mask.

We recognize that extended quarantines and isolation can be frustrating, but we are in accordance with the latest CDC guidelines regarding individuals housed in a congregate living environment.

Out-of-cell time for individuals on quarantine or isolation may vary depending on their housing unit, and whether an individual is in a quarantine area versus an isolation area.

Isolation is designated for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantine is designated for individuals who have come in direct contact with positive cases but are not positive for COVID-19.

Quarantine protocols are similar to isolation protocols, except they can be more stringent, since those individuals have not tested positive, and maintaining social distancing and individual recreation time is essential.

We ask for your continued patience. We will continue to work within the COVID-19 parameters while also trying to continue to provide programming, treatment, education and employment.

Regards,

Brian Nielson
Executive Director
Utah Department of Corrections



Commissary Disruptions FAQ

For the last several months, the commissary has experienced shortages of items and unusually inconsistent staffing. UCI is working diligently with our vendors to purchase products and maintain commissary staffing. In the meantime, we would like to answer some questions we've received in kites and grievances to give you additional information on the delays.

We understand the frustration any impact to commissary can cause and we appreciate your patience while we manage this issue. Please remember that policy recommends you write a kite to commissary to inquire about your order first, and if you cannot find a resolution, a grievance should be your next step. Thank you again for your patience during these unusual times.

Why does commissary have so many items out of stock? The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted nearly every aspect of the supply chain, or the system that includes manufacturing and transportation that gets items from where they are made to where they are going. This is impacting UCI's ability to get many items from our vendors. This is not just an issue for UCI. Stores across Utah and the country are in the same position. Because there are fewer items available, the cost of these items is also higher.

What is UCI doing to reduce the shortage? We work with many wholesale vendors in order to get you the best price for the commissary items. We reach out to our

vendors weekly to see what items they have available. If they do not have them in stock, we contact other vendors for the product. Some people have suggested we go to local stores to find the items. Unfortunately, purchasing items from a regular store, like Walmart or Smiths, costs significantly more because they are not wholesale vendors. The costs for these items would be significantly more than the prices we have through our other vendors.

How do we get our refunds after an item is out of stock? UCI works with the Finance department's inmate accounting to issue refunds to your account as quickly as possible. We are processing refunds every day, so if you have not received a refund after two weeks, please let commissary know via kite. If it is less than two weeks, we ask for your patience. Because of the high number of credits that need to be issued, the refunds may be slower than normal.

Why is commissary delivery disrupted? As you are aware, UDC follows health department guidelines for Covid-19 isolation, testing and quarantine. Unit lockdowns have included our commissary shop workers on occasion. We have worked to find other people willing to work in the commissary during the quarantines, and have used UCI staff members from different worksites to fill in when possible. UCI is doing everything possible to minimize the impact to the delivery schedule.

Hepatitis C Treatment

UDC is presently working within the confines of a recent Hepatitis C lawsuit settlement. As a result of the settlement agreement, all inmates in the UDC system will be tested for the Hepatitis C virus. Those that test positive are added to a Hepatitis C clinic.

Once admitted to the clinic, lab tests are requested and their values are used to calculate a liver score. The liver score (F score) suggests when patients should be considered for treatment. Because of this it is important that inmates do not refuse lab tests when requested.

In this system, there is no need for you to request treatment for Hepatitis C as you will be contacted as part of the scoring system and receive treatment when treatment criteria has been met.

Requesting treatment for Hepatitis C will not impact the date of your treatment. However, please inform clinical staff regarding any worsening symptoms or any potential new exposures.

Update on Phones and Visiting

We are excited to share that as of December 10, 2021, we have lowered phone rates for all incarcerated individuals and their families. All phone calls are now \$0.10 per minute for local, and \$0.19 per minute for long distance.

Please note that while we have moved away from the initial free phone calls that we offered at the outset of the pandemic, we stand committed to enhancing communication with your loved ones.

Moving forward, we are committed to providing one free 15-minute phone call per week to all incarcerated individuals at the Utah State Prison and the Central Utah Correctional Facility.

As we continue to monitor outbreaks in our facilities we are hopeful that in-person visiting will resume in the coming weeks. UDC will continue to offer video visiting at both correctional facilities.

HOW TO USE YOUR N95 RESPIRATOR | COVID-19 |

Wear your N95 properly so it is effective

N95s must form a seal to the face to work properly. This is especially important for people at increased risk for severe disease. Wearing an N95 can make it harder to breathe. If you have heart or lung problems, talk to your doctor before using an N95.

Some N95s may contain latex in the straps. If you have natural rubber latex allergies, **please notify your housing officer.**

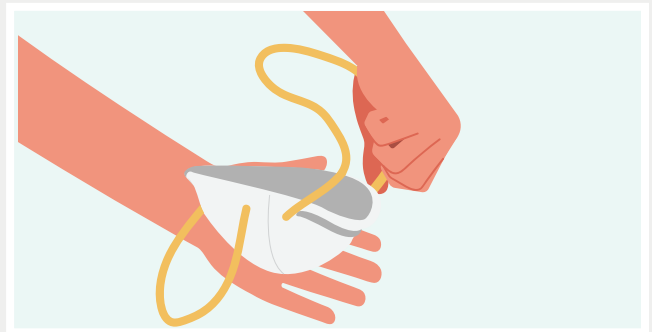
Your N95 may look different than the one in these pictures. As long as your N95 has two head straps (not ear loops), these basic instructions apply.

1 Wash Your Hands



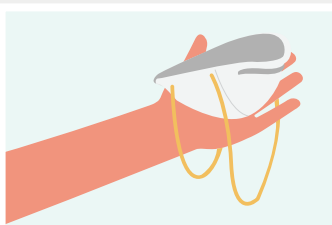
It is best to put on your N95 with clean, dry hands.

2 Check Your N95

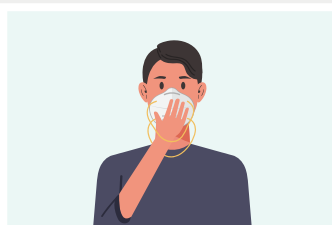


Always inspect the N95 for damage before use. If it appears damaged, dirty, or damp, do not use it.

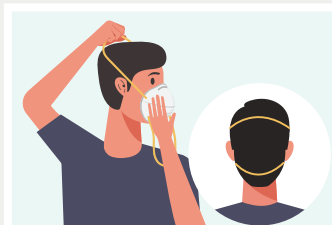
3 Put on the N95



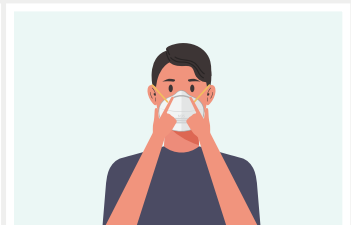
Hold the N95 in your hand with the nose piece bar (or foam) at your fingertips. If yours does not have a nose piece, use the text written on it to be sure the top end is at your fingertips.



Place the N95 under your chin with the nose piece bar at the top.



Pull the top strap over your head, placing it near the crown. Then, pull the bottom strap over and place it at the back of your neck, below your ears. Do not crisscross the straps. Make sure the straps lay flat and are not twisted.



Place your fingertips from both hands at the top of the nose piece. Press down on both sides of the nose piece to mold it to the shape of your nose.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

4 Keep Your N95 Snug

Your N95 must form a seal to your face to work properly. Your breath must pass through the N95 and not around its edges. Jewelry, glasses, and facial hair can cause gaps between your face and the edge of the mask. The N95 works better if you are clean shaven. Gaps can also occur if your N95 is too big, too small, or it was not put on correctly.

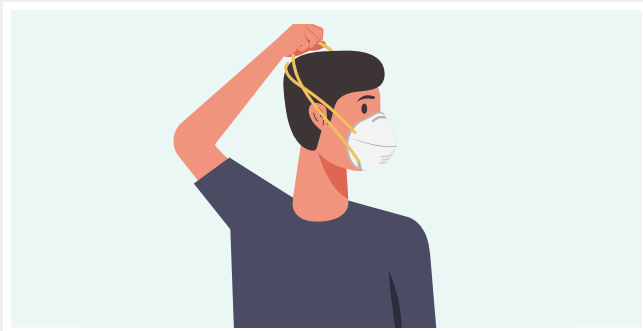


To check for gaps, gently place your hands on the N95, covering as much of it as possible, then breathe out. If you feel air leaking out from the edges of the N95, or if you are wearing glasses and they fog up, it is not snug. Adjust the N95 and try again.



If you cannot get a tight seal, try a different size or style. Even if you cannot get the N95 sealed against your face, it will provide protection that is likely better than a cloth mask. Check for gaps every time you put on your N95.

5 Remove the N95



After you remove your N95, wash your hands with soap and water, or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol if soap is not available.



When to Replace Your N95

Do not wash your N95 or put it in the oven or microwave to try to sterilize it.

Replace the N95 when the straps are stretched out and it no longer fits snugly against your face or when it becomes wet, dirty, or damaged. Throw it in the trash.