

# COVID-19 Mass Testing Update



- IDOC's priority related to addressing COVID-19 is clear – our job is to protect the lives of our staff and those in our custody. Toward that end, we have begun our mass testing events.
- On Monday, June 29, 2020 in partnership with the Veterans' Administration, IDOC conducted a mass testing event of every person living in the housing unit at ISCC where the first positive case of COVID-19 was identified among the incarcerated population.
- The mass testing event of ISCC's E-block housing unit is just the first in our planned system-wide testing. Our goal is to test every incarcerated person and facility-based staff member, whether they have symptoms or not.
- Testing asymptomatic individuals is key to our strategy to adequately control the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities. Identifying people who test asymptomatic positive allows us to monitor them closely for the development of symptoms, while also keeping them separate from people who are negative for COVID-19.
- Community-based testing efforts are currently focused on people who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are believed to have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for the disease. What differentiates IDOC's mass-testing events is the fact that we are collecting samples from an entire population irrespective of symptoms or exposure.
- We tested 258 individuals in E-block and all were asymptomatic at the time of testing. That means 258 people were not experiencing or reporting any of the symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 like fever, coughing, shortness of breath, etc.
- Of the 258 E-block residents, we have test results back for 247. IDOC has been notified that 103 were asymptomatic positive.
- On July 1, 2020, we conducted mass testing of H-block, which houses 316 people. So far, we have 92 test results back and they are all negative.
- Staff who become symptomatic are being tested on-site with the ID NOW instrument and next week, in partnership with Saltzer Health, we will conduct mass testing events for staff in the South Boise complex.
- Our key strategy to fighting COVID-19, as recommended by the CDC, remains to test, trace and quarantine. We plan to test everyone, use contact tracing to identify who may have been exposed, and quarantine those who are at-risk.