

COVID-19 Update 09.02.2020

Hello everyone,

It's been about a week since you've had an update from us and a lot has happened in that time. Let's start with a quick non-COVID update.

Out-of-state moves: Another 141 individuals moved from Eagle Pass, Tx to the facility in AZ yesterday, bringing the total to 438 in the Saguaro Correctional Center in AZ. Approximately 170 people remain in TX and are scheduled to return to Idaho later this month. It bears repeating that the programs and opportunities available to our residents in AZ are akin to what we offer here – folks in AZ will have access to the same set of core programs which the parole commission uses in evaluating release readiness. Our goal is to get everyone back in-state as soon as we can, but until we have the beds available to do that, we want the experience out-of-state to be similar to ID and for placement out-of-state to not cause any unnecessary delays in rehabilitation.

And now back to all things COVID-19.

Employee benefits: Let's admit that COVID-19 is having some major impacts on us all. Some people are feeling extra stress, are worried about how to manage kids in virtual school and full-time jobs, or have the sniffles and immediately fear that they have COVID-19 (is that just me?). To help deal with the uncertainty of this time, I wanted to make you aware of additional employee assistance [benefits](#) that are available to help deal with the stress of COVID-19. These resources will also be on eDoc, but I wanted to be sure you all knew about them.

Face coverings: [Attached](#) you will find the new mask guidance that we've been promising for a while now. The state epidemiologists have signed off on our plan, which allows some staff to return to the use of cloth face coverings in certain circumstances. We've been hearing that people prefer the cloth masks to the medical masks and the science is showing that there are circumstances when this is appropriate. My advice is read through the document, identify what best describes you (i.e., have you had COVID-19 and been medically cleared, or not) and the area of the facility you work and then adopt the applicable guidance for yourself. If you find yourself moving around facilities and populations with different COVID-19 statuses throughout the day, you'll need to continue wearing the medical mask.

Staff test results: We have had four staff test positive for COVID-19 this week, including 1 staff member at ISCC and 3 at IMSI. That brings our departmental total to 109 positives.

Incarcerated resident test results: Our testing team was busy last week at ISCI and this week at IMSI. Today we collected over 200 samples, completing testing at IMSI. We've now completed mass testing at all of our facilities in the Treasure Valley area and have also mass tested the Idaho Falls CRC and SAWC. To date, we've conducted 7,144 tests, and currently have 165 pending, 5,679 negatives, 46 positive with symptoms, 184 asymptomatic positives, 1,070 inactive, and 2 deaths.

We don't have any updates to report from Eagle Pass or Saguaro and the most recent numbers can be found [here](#).

Testing plans going forward: We will be closely monitoring test results from pre-release testing and testing of symptomatic individuals (residents and staff) to determine where we will focus our mass testing

efforts. Additionally, we will be testing all residents as they enter into the RDU and then again prior to their placement in other facilities. We want to ensure we are doing all we can to limit spread.

Please stay safe and healthy!

Best,
Bree

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