

## Staff Update 3/17/2020

Hi All-

Only a couple updates for today.

**IDOC Cares:** It isn't lost on us how difficult this time can be for our staff. We are amazing at coming together to respond to emergencies, and I know we can bring that same effort to take care of our own. From trying to figure out childcare to meeting basic needs like diapers, food, etc., we can pull together to take care of each other. Effective today, we're standing up a way for staff to discretely reach out for help. Staff needing some help can email [IDOC-Cares@idoc.idaho.gov](mailto:IDOC-Cares@idoc.idaho.gov). We'll work with Morale Task Forces across the department to get you help without sharing your personal information.

**Marathon, not a sprint:** Our world rapidly changed, and we've been able to cover a lot of ground in a really quick timeframe. But we also need to prepare for a sustained effort because what we've seen elsewhere in the world suggests this won't just blow over in a couple weeks. The advantage we have in corrections is that this threat is external – it's an outside-in danger. And for prisons and CRC's, our ability to protect the population in our custody will be largely determined by our ability to mind the front door. The medical screenings for staff and others entering our worksites has mostly gone without incident. I can't stress enough how important it is that you take these screenings seriously. Please understand these screenings are in place to protect you. I know there are mixed opinions about COVID-19, but there should be consensus that the consequences for not taking it seriously and allowing it in our front door could be catastrophic. Your continued vigilance is appreciated.

**HR Questions:** Attached is a FAQ HR developed to help answer questions you might have. HR has established a dedicated line to field medical, leave, and other employee-related questions. The number is 208-287-3328. This number will be answered during the day and messages checked in the evening as well. Also, all of these COVID-19 updates are now available on the external IDOC website so you can check from home for any updated information by clicking [here](#).

**Telecommuting:** Direction has been provided to division leadership about telecommuting and they will be communicating the specifics to you tomorrow.

Thanks again for all you do! More to come.

Thanks-  
Josh