

Hi all-

With the increase in private labs offering COVID-19 testing, official numbers are getting harder to track. The official state number was 73 confirmed cases as of this evening, but some media reports put that number higher.

CDC Prison/Jail Guidance: Last night, the CDC released guidance for prisons and jails to respond to the COVID-19 public health crisis. We spent today pouring through the information. The measures we've implemented are consistent with the guidance. Tomorrow, we'll be sharing additional guidance for use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). We've received a lot of questions about when it is appropriate for staff to use PPE. The CDC guidance offers some great insight, and we'll be pushing that out to everyone tomorrow.

IDOC Testing: We've been fortunate so far. IDOC has submitted 7 samples for testing. All 7 tests have come back NEGATIVE for COVID-19. An 8th sample was submitted for testing this evening and we expect results back tomorrow.

Phase 3 Planning: The incident command team has been preparing for phase 3 of this effort. Implementation of Phase 3 will occur if/when COVID-19 has found its way into our system. We've acquired a number of large medical tents to increase our ability to isolate individuals in order to provide appropriate medical care, while limiting further exposure. We also are developing plans to suspend transports and movement should the situation warrant.

Medical Screening/Telecommuting Updates: Thought some of this might be of interest. . . So far, over 220 staff have signed telecommuting agreements. As of this morning, the staff medical screenings have resulted in 61 people being sent home. 17 have since been cleared and returned to work. Thank you all so much for your continued cooperation with the screening process.

It's going to be a busy week, and we'll have a lot more to report. I saw a quote last week that really struck home. It was something along the lines of how anything you do before an emergency seems like an overreaction, but anything you do after seems entirely inadequate. The CDC guidance validated the early decisions that were made to be proactive, but it's your continued vigilance and sustained effort that has us positioned so well to respond to anything that comes our way. I can't thank all of you enough for how you've responded in a difficult time!

Thanks-
Josh