

COVID-19 Update - April 09, 2020

Hi all-

Another short update tonight. It feels like we've had a lot of planes circling the airport this week, and we're bringing a bunch to ground tomorrow.

Testing Update: We've submitted 22 COVID-19 tests for people in our custody. 21 have returned NEGATIVE and 1 is pending. In Texas, 6 tests have been administered and all 6 have returned NEGATIVE.

Staff Testing Update: We've been made aware that several employees have received COVID-19 tests from their healthcare providers but their tests were not submitted to the state lab for priority testing. Some providers are choosing to instead process those samples through private labs that have longer wait times for results. We're aware of the issue and we're working on ways to resolve it. And by "we're" I mean Christine Starr. She's all over it.

Public FAQ: Attached to this email is a preview of a FAQ we'll be making public tomorrow. There's no shortage of news stories about correctional systems that have been hit hard by COVID-19, and people are quick to want to paint all of corrections with the same brush. We've been fortunate for sure, but all of you have put in a lot of work to better position our system to respond to this public health crisis. It's important to make sure we're telling our story and getting the correct information out there. We're working on a series of FAQ's to help people better understand what is happening in our system and the measures in place to protect our staff and the people in our custody.

You can expect a longer update tomorrow, and you also can expect to receive it by 1700 hours. I only added that last part as a challenge to myself. I'm sure there's no shortage of you who will hold me accountable if I miss that deadline. . . So until then, please stay safe, take care of yourself, and keep looking out for each other!

Thanks-
Josh