

COVID-19 Update - April 27, 2020

Hi all-

Happy Monday! I hope everyone had a great weekend.

Operational Period Extended: With the Governor announcing a phased approach to reopening Idaho's economy, we are following a similar approach with the modified restricted status at our facilities. We are extending the visiting and volunteer services restrictions to coincide with the earliest we will likely be able to reinstate visiting – June 13th. It's worth noting this step is not date-certain. Instead, it is contingent on the state meeting a number of different public health criteria. The June 13th date is the earliest we could expect visiting and volunteer services to resume, but we'll reevaluate the potential risk to the people in our custody and staff as we get closer to that date. We're still reviewing information in the Governor's criteria and we'll be developing operational plans for how the easing of restrictions will impact agency operations in our non-facility worksites.

4th Staff Member Positive for COVID-19: This weekend, we were notified that a 4th staff member tested positive for COVID-19. This staff member works in P&P at District 4. It appears at this point there is minimal to no risk for other exposures. This case helped prove the wisdom in P&P's approach to staffing in small teams during this public health crisis to minimize exposure to other staff or people on supervision. The staff member is on the mend and in good spirits. Our thoughts are with them for a quick recovery!

Cloth Face Coverings: We're cruising on the cloth mask production! To date, over 19,000 masks have been made. 2,000 masks were sent to Eagle Pass, TX today for the people in custody there. A reminder on the cloth masks: they're not yet mandatory, but we are strongly encouraging everyone to wear one when they are unable to adhere to social distancing standards.

More FAQ's online: We're putting two additional FAQ's on our website in response to frequently received questions. They're attached for your review.

Temperature Checks: Now that we have thermometers and they were delivered to all the prisons, CRC's and Districts today, we'll be rolling out temperature checks as part of the medial screening this week. We're also working with the state Division of Human Resources on a statewide policy regarding temperature checks. We'll have more information later this week.

We expect more information later this week about modifications to the Governor's Stay-Home Order and the phased reopening of Idaho's economy. I think it's worth reminding everyone about the need for continued vigilance and caution. Like most people, I'm ready to find a little more balance between how I'm used to interacting with people and what the last month has looked like. But I also know that if we aren't careful, and if we don't continue to be particularly mindful about good safety practices to keep ourselves and the people in our custody safe, the consequences will be severe. Let's not let a rush to return to "normal" put ourselves or others in jeopardy.

I'm incredibly proud of everyone's efforts. Thank you for your continued vigilance. Take care of yourself and keep looking out for each other

Thanks-

Josh