

COVID-19 Update - May 01, 2020

Hi all-

The Governor has talked extensively about the importance of testing in getting ahead of COVID-19. Access to quality, real-time testing also is key for us as we look at ways to ease restrictions while providing for the safety of staff and the people in our custody. My first update tonight is an exciting development.

[Abbott's ID NOW™](#) - I am pleased to announce that through a partnership with the Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Public Health, IDOC has been allocated an ID NOW instrument that will detect the coronavirus in as little as five minutes! This new point of care instrument will be housed at ISCI, and will provide testing capabilities for all our facilities within the Treasure Valley. Our intention is to make testing available to facility staff and inmates who are symptomatic. Our ability to expand testing will be dependent on our access to testing cartridges. Fourteen additional ID NOW instruments have been distributed to health districts throughout the state and we are currently working to ensure access to instruments located in areas close to our facilities in the northern and eastern part of the state – so stay tuned!

**P&P Grant submitted:** Not COVID-19 related, but yesterday we submitted a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance that, if approved, would provide \$1 million over three years to supply additional tools to help Probation and Parole Officers with their caseloads. Last summer, we partnered with a group called Recidiviz to build out dashboards to help our PPO's look at their caseloads differently, prioritize their contacts, and provide them real-time information on which interventions are proving most effective. We submitted this grant in partnership with Recidiviz to provide a few more bells and whistles while creating a dynamic tool. Special thanks to Cindy Lee and Bree Derrick for making it happen on an expedited timeframe. We're keeping our fingers crossed!

That's it for this week. I hope all of you are able to have some down time this weekend. Thank you again for all of your efforts to keep our system safely functioning. Stay safe, take care of yourself, and keep looking out for each other.

Thanks-  
Josh