

## COVID-19 Update May 07, 2020

Hello everyone,

Tonight, your update is coming from me as Director Tewalt is out of the office due to illness. He's asked me to assure you that it's not COVID, but still we hope he's feeling better soon. It feels funny to say it's a slow news day when there's been so little daylight on my calendar (and I'm sure, many of yours!) that I can barely find time to get up out of my chair, but that just goes to show that COVID can't slow us down!

On the COVID front, I've been having individual calls with each facility head this week to dig into the **CDC guidelines for correctional facilities** and explore how we can continue to increase our prevention efforts to avoid moving into Phase 3 of our ICS response. Those conversations have confirmed for me that we have a solid foundation in place to help protect staff and the incarcerated population, but more importantly, staff are getting creative and bringing new ideas to the table. Check out the partitions that Warden Armstrong and his team have created to provide a barrier between diners (**attached**)! I've also had staff members reach out to me with other ideas – like a sanitizer for shared keys – and we're moving forward with purchasing those. So please keep the good ideas coming via the [BrightIdeas@idoc.idaho.gov](mailto:BrightIdeas@idoc.idaho.gov) email.

In other news, I had the pleasure of joining the P&P statewide leadership call today and was asked a great **question about motivation**. I've been noodling on that since the call ended and wanted to share a bit of Michael Jordan wisdom as a response because: 1) I'm currently watching the "The Last Dance" so it's top of mind and 2) MJ was on to a few things. First, Jordan was focused and tireless. Second, he realized his team was more successful when everyone was firing on all cylinders, not just him. Third, when a reporter asked MJ who should have the ball at the end of a game he said, "Give me the ball. Give me the ball."

So, if I'm offering advice from the school of Michael Jordan here goes: it's great to start with some internal motivation and an eye on the big picture – we are changing lives and making Idaho safer as a result. I hope people find that as motivating as I do. Then, be sure to build up the team around you – Jordan needed Pippen and Rodman, and we need all of you! And when it's close to the buzzer ringing, I hope we're all off the bench and screaming, "Give me the ball!"

Please keep up the great work and continue to keep yourselves and each other safe.

Best,  
Bree