

COVID-19 Update - September 16, 2020

Hi All-

It's been just over six months since we stood up the incident command system to direct our response to COVID. I'm torn between feeling like it was just yesterday or it's been the longest six months ever! I'll let you know where I land on that sentiment when I figure it out. . . Now some updates.

**Mass Testing:** Last week, we had several people test positive at our NICI facility so this week our testing teams are rolling north to conduct mass testing at our NICI and ICIO facilities. Testing will be for all residents and all staff at these two facilities and will occur at NICI today and ICIO on Thursday.

**Incarcerated Population Test Results:** As of yesterday, we've conducted 8,198 tests. Of those, 6,570 have returned negative, 111 are pending, 57 symptomatic positives, 287 asymptomatic positive, 1,171 cases considered no longer active, and 2 covid-related deaths.

In Eagle Pass, TX, 33 tests have been conducted with 21 negatives, 4 symptomatic positives and 8 cases that are no longer considered active. It also is worth noting that our population in Eagle Pass is down to 170 individuals after the moves to Saguaro Correctional Center (SCC) in AZ.

At SCC, 438 tests have been conducted with 7 results pending, 307 negative, 3 symptomatic positives, and 121 asymptomatic positives. COVID has complicated the transition for the gentlemen moved from Eagle Pass to SCC. Those moves are never easy on people, but with medical quarantines factored in, it certainly adds to the frustration. We're getting close to completing the necessary quarantines and getting folks in a more normal routine that includes education, employment and programming.

**Staff test results:** We have had a total of 122 IDOC staff test positive for COVID-19 during this crisis. Yesterday, we did not have any new positive staff.

**In-person visiting:** We continue to work closely with the state epidemiologists to develop a plan to restart visiting. Given the smaller numbers of people at our CRCs and the increased flexibility for how visiting runs, we are aiming to restart visiting within the CRCs prior to restarting at the other facilities. We will be outfitting visiting locations with temperature kiosks, plexiglass barriers, and a supply of masks for visitors over this week and next in preparation for reopening visiting, but we do not yet have a date set. The limited capacity means we'll need to schedule visits, so we're working on a solution for that process. We'll communicate more when we have target dates.

We're six months into this COVID response, and a lot has changed. What hasn't changed is the important work we're tasked to complete. The work remains, and it's more challenging and difficult, but it's no less important. I can't thank you enough for your dedication and hard work. Please stay safe, take care of yourself, and keep looking out for each other!

Thanks-  
Josh