



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

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**Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner**

**Benjamin R. Jean
Assistant Commissioner**

Date: July 31, 2020
To: All Staff and Residents
Subject: Update on the Status of Visitation and Volunteer Services
From: Commissioner Helen E. Hanks

We are extending the suspension of visitation and use of volunteers through August 10th, 2020. Site leadership have remitted a modified non-contact visit proposal. We are examining the proposal and have sought additional feedback from Public Health. These plans are still not finalized yet. We will continue offering non-contact visitation for attorneys with residents having active cases. Attorney visits will continue to be permitted on a limited first come first serve basis and must be scheduled directly with the facility to be visited. The Department of Corrections will also continue accommodations for electronic attorney/client activity. Any other official visitor request (i.e. law enforcement, non-DOC Investigators, Interpreters) will require preauthorization by the facility Warden/Director, in consultation with the Commissioner's Office. Tours will require preauthorization by the Commissioner.

The Department understands the importance of visitation, volunteer programming, internships, and attorney/client activity. We will continue to use the re-opening committee, facility leadership, and resident feedback to assess and monitor the situation. Attorneys with urgent needs will continue to contact the Warden/Director or designee for the facility housing their client.

We look forward to providing additional information in the next few weeks of these next phases of operational changes that provide for a new normal that keep safety and health at the forefront.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Helen E. Hanks".

Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner