



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Date: 3/19/2020
Re: COVID-19 Response

The New Hampshire Department of Corrections has been committed to preventing COVID-19 from entering our facilities during this pandemic. In order to respond to COVID-19, we added additional preventative measures overlaid with our regular screening for influenza. Here are some of the things we have had in place along with extra measures specific to the evolution of COVID-19.

- Beginning January 29th 2020,
 - Information regarding handwashing and cough etiquette was provided to both residents and staff.
 - All visitors/volunteers entering our facilities and individuals being booked into our facilities were screened with travel related questions associated with COVID-19. Healthcare staff also began to triage for signs and symptoms as indicated by the screening tool and continue to do so to date.
- The week of March 2rd,
 - We adjusted our COVID-19 screening tool based on new CDC guidelines for visitors prior to entering facilities.
 - The resident screening tool was also adjusted per new CDC guidelines. This included new intakes, returns from county correctional facilities, parole violators, At Home Confinements, returns from other state correctional facilities, admissions from New Hampshire Hospital, etc.
 - COVID-19 specific information was provided to both residents through tablet technology and posting.
 - Staff were provided additional information as well about frequent handwashing and cough etiquette.
 - We increased the frequency of our cleaning regiments in our facilities.
- The week of March 9th,
 - All visitors were required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer in addition to the COVID-19 screening prior to being allowed to visit.

- Resident transfers and intakes required a health screen including temperature check prior to accepting anyone to be booked into a facility from any location (e.g. House of Corrections) and a call ahead confirming medical clearance.
- We also began distributing hand sanitizing products to our staff, visiting rooms and other key locations.
- Waived medical co-pays to residents for assessment of fever, cough, shortness of breath, flu-like symptoms.
- The week of March 16th,
 - Suspended visits to prevent introduction of the virus into the facilities.
 - Suspended volunteers and interns from coming into facilities to prevent introduction of the virus.
 - Instituted expanded screening of all staff and essential vendors coming into facilities which included a temperature check.
 - Limiting transfers between facilities and limiting staff going to different facilities to prevent introduction of the virus into the facilities.

The Department has been in close contact with NH leadership, continues to monitor the CDC guidelines and is coordinating with other state partners to provide a comprehensive response. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive outline of Departmental activities but a broad outline of the actions we have taken. The health of our staff and residents is our top priority.

For the latest information and updates on COVID-19 in New Hampshire, go to www.nh.gov/covid19.