DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
STATE OF NEW HAMPshire  
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INTRA-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM  
Office of the Commissioner

TO: All Staff, Inmates and Public  
FROM: William L. Wrenn  
Commissioner

DATE: January 18, 2017  
OFFICE: Commissioner’s Office  
Phone: 271-5603

SUBJECT: Visiting Room Changes

This month, we experienced multiple life threatening incidents involving the abuse of drugs at the NHSP-M, as well as, a suspected drug use related death at the Calumet House. There has also been evidence of increased violence among our population related to the illegal use and sale of drugs within our institutions. The introduction of illegal drugs into our facilities and the increase illegal use of drugs by many of the people under our supervision are continuing to pose serious safety and security concerns within our correctional facilities. It has been determined that a large amount of drugs are entering our facilities through our visiting rooms.

Communication Changes:

In order to create a direct line of communication for friends, family and others to pass along information about illegal drug use in our Correctional System that will assist in ensuring safe facilities, we have established a confidential e-mail address.  

drugreporting@doc.nh.gov

This email will be available to anyone who wishes to provide us with information regarding illegal drug use in our Correctional System.

In addition to the email address, we are also in the process of setting up a telephone number to be used as a hot line for the reporting of information also pertaining to the illegal drug use in the facilities.

Policy Changes:

Due to the recent events and to ensure our mission to provide a safe and secure correctional system, I am directing the following changes take effect on January 31, 2017 at our facilities:

1) Inmates and visitors will no longer be permitted to kiss in the visiting room. Inmates and visitors will be allowed a short hug of 3 seconds or less at the beginning and end of a visit.

The failure to comply with these requirements will result in the immediate termination of the
visit, as well as, possible termination of future visits.

2) Inmates and visitors will be permitted to hold hands on top of a table. Holding hands under a table is strictly prohibited and will result in the immediate termination of the visit, as well as possible future visitation.

3) Inmates and visitors shall maintain a visible physical space between each person while seated at the tables. The failure to comply with this requirement will result in the immediate termination of the visit, as well as, possible termination of future visits.

4) All vending machines and board games will be removed from the visiting rooms.

In closing, we will continue to investigate the illegal use, sale, and introduction of illegal drugs in our prison facilities. While I appreciate and understand the importance of being able to visit with your family and friends, it is our responsibility to protect the safety of all inmates, as well as, DOC staff and the public. It is unfortunate that some individuals want to continue their criminal ways by undermining our best efforts to keep you all safe. It is my expectation by implementing these changes there will be a noticeable reduction in the amount of drugs being introduced and used in our facilities. If I do not see positive results from these changes, we are prepared to take whatever additional steps are necessary to prevent drugs from being introduced into our institutions.

William L. Wrenn
Commissioner