



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
SPRINGFIELD 62702

## **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

**JB PRITZKER**  
Governor

**ROB JEFFREYS**  
Director

### **Memorandum**

**To: Individuals in Custody**

**From: Rob Jeffreys, Your Director**

**Date: January 10, 2022**

**Subject: COVID-19 Omicron Variant Information and Guidance**

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The United States is experiencing a surge of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant. At the Illinois Department of Corrections, there are currently 912 staff and 1,567 individuals in custody who are COVID positive. Thanks to lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, many of these cases are mild.

The Omicron variant spreads more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. Anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms. Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.

Because it is difficult to safely social distance inside correctional facilities, it is critical that everyone wears a mask in any shared spaces. Please wear your mask properly, over both your nose and mouth.

Although the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has shortened its quarantine and isolation recommendations for people in the community, guidance for those who live and work in correctional facilities remains the same. The CDC recommends a 14-day quarantine for individuals in custody who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and test negative for the virus. It is recommended that individuals in custody who test positive for COVID-19 be placed in isolation for a 10-day period.

The Illinois Department of Corrections is working diligently to keep all of you safe. To help protect yourself, you are encouraged to disinfect your living area, wash your hands regularly, and wear a mask. If you are not yet vaccinated but would like to receive the shot, please notify healthcare staff.