



The Illinois Department of Corrections

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March 11, 2020

Dear Men and Women in Custody,

Your health, safety, and well-being are among our highest priorities at the Illinois Department of Corrections. With recent developments regarding COVID-19 (the 2019 novel Coronavirus), we want to take a moment to reinforce best-practice preventative safety measures and reference our process and procedures to keep everyone in IDOC healthy.

COVID-19 causes upper respiratory disease similar to the flu. In most cases, the disease resolves without complications.

It is important to remember that at this time, according to the Centers for Disease Control, there are several confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in Illinois. Currently there are no confirmed cases in any IDOC facility. As an agency, we are closely monitoring the situation and are taking guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The immediate health risk to the public in Illinois and the United States remains low. There is currently no recommendation to disrupt normal activities in our facilities, unless told to do so by IDPH.

We encourage you to be mindful of preventative measures that can be taken. Please remember that if you are sick or think you have a fever; you should inform a healthcare provider or correctional officer. A fever is defined as a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

Proactive Steps to Stay Healthy

You are encouraged to follow these common-sense practices:

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of the arm or with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue away immediately. Wash hands as soon as possible afterward.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely in the days and weeks to come. Be assured that additional communication will be forthcoming, if and when the situation changes. We will continue to take guidance from the IDPH and communicate with you, as appropriate.

Thank you,

John Eilers

Chief of Operations

Illinois Department of Corrections

Mission: To serve justice in Illinois and increase public safety by promoting positive change in offender behavior, operating successful reentry programs, and reducing victimization.