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Georgia Department of Corrections Coronavirus (COVID - 19) Response

Commissioner: Timothy C. Ward

Director of Public Affairs: Joan Heath

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Date: March 16, 2020

STATE OF GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Corrections Coronavirus (COVID - 19) Response

Facilities Update

FORSYTH, Ga. - The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) is responding with all available resources to help prevent the potential introduction and spread of Coronavirus (COVID - 19) into our facilities. As we continue to work closely with Governor Kemp's office, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) to coordinate the appropriate response to this evolving situation, the GDC has implemented a phased approach, to include planning and education, preparedness and response.

Specific protocols have been put in place to proactively address the health and welfare of those in our custody, to include the following:

- Suspended visitation through April 10, 2020
- Suspended volunteer visits to facilities, out of an abundance of caution
- Partnered with Securus Technologies and JPay to provide each offender with the following, until further notice:
    - one free fifteen-minute phone call each week beginning March 14, 2020
    - two free e-stamps each week beginning March 17, 2020
- Waived $5.00 medical co-pay for offenders exhibiting COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, effective March 13, 2020, until further notice
- Quantities of hand soap and hand sanitizer have been increased at all facilities
- Enhanced sanitation and cleaning protocols at all facilities, and for all transportation vehicles, to include designating additional Sanitation Officers
- Enhanced medical screening protocols for staff, contractors, vendors, or any individual entering our facilities
- Enhanced screening process for offenders
- Enhanced diagnostic intake screening for offenders entering GDC custody
    - Symptomatic offenders with exposure risk factors will be isolated and tested for COVID-19 per health authority protocols
- Temporarily suspending attorney visits, although individual cases will be reviewed
- Suspended non-essential offender movement across GDC facilities, effective March 3, 2020, until further notice
- Ongoing notification and education of staff and inmate population
- Suspended all facility tours through April 10, 2020

The GDC remains committed to staff and inmate safety and welfare, and as more information develops related to additional mitigation efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we will be responding accordingly. Additional updates will be provided via our website and social media channels.

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About the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC)

The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) has one of the largest prison systems in the U.S. and is responsible for supervising nearly 54,000 state prisoners. It is the largest law enforcement agency in the state with approximately 10,500 employees. For more information on the GDC, call 478-992-5247 or visit http://www.gdc.ga.gov (http://www.gdc.ga.gov/)

More Info

Offenders ▾ (/InmateInfo/InmateInfo)

Videos

2:27	3:42	4:50	5:23
GDC Career Hub 2018	Meet Eric Ranhorn: Augusta State Medical's	Colwell Rescued Program Gives Offenders and Dogs a	Augusta State Medical Prison Moving Forward
130 views • 1 month ago	167 views • 1 month ago	43 views • 1 month ago	186 views • 1 month ago
4:14	4:31	2:23	3:17
Guitar Lessons Help Offenders Play a Different	Former Offenders Inspire Georgia State University	National Correctional Officer Week	Beyond The Walls: Shannondore Sims
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Click here to see our Video Library on YouTube

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmnBETAKwOXWfWkeSJaZlHw)

Latest Press

03.26.21
Roll-Out Begins For Offender Menu Enhancements (/NewsRoom/PressReleases/roll-out-begins-offender-menu-enhancements)

03.02.21
Correctional Staff Arrests at Georgia State Prison (/NewsRoom/PressReleases/correctional-staff-arrests-georgia-state-prison)

02.04.21
New Deputy Warden of Care and Treatment at Montgomery State Prison
(/NewsRoom/PressReleases/new-deputy-warden-care-and-treatment-montgomery-state-prison)

Click here to see our Press Releases (/NewsRoom/PressReleases/PressReleases)

Twitter Feed

MODIFIED VISITATION PROCEDURES

ELIGIBILITY

- One (1) visit every other month per inmate will be allowed
- Visits will be no more than two (2) hours in length
- Two (2) approved visitors will be allowed and must visit at the same time
- No visitors under the age of twelve (12) will be permitted
- All visitors must be on the offenders approved visitation list
- A confirmation email will be sent once your request for visitation has been approved
- Offenders on quarantine or medical isolation status will not be allowed visits

SCHEDULING

- Complete and sign an attestation form of no-known-illnesses
- All visitors will be subjected to a temperature check to confirm temperatures are not greater than 100.4°
- Any visitor exhibiting symptoms, unable to clear attestation form, or unable to clear temperature screening will not be allowed to visit

SAFETY

- Visitation room capacity will be determined by CDC and GDPH guidelines, social distancing and square footage of the visitation area
- Disposable face mask will be provided, and must be worn at all times; no personal face masks will be allowed
- Only two (2) approved visitors will be allowed in the front entry at a time
- Seating will be socially distanced
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- No physical contact will be allowed
- The restroom and visitation area will be sanitized between each visitation session

For more information visit www.gdc.ga.gov

Click here to see our Twitter Page

(https://twitter.com/GA_Corrections)

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