EMERGENCY ALERTS

Coronavirus Update

COVID-19 Vaccine: Safe, effective, free. Get the vaccine today: *Jun. 2nd, 2021, 9:25 am* Read more

COVID-19 Updates and Information: All restrictions lifted effective May 29 *Jun. 3rd, 2021, 12:01 am* Read more

HIDE ALERTS

Mass.gov

NOTICE

IN-PERSON VISITATION TO RESUME DEPARTMENT-WIDE ON JUNE 1, 2021

(/news/doc-to-resume-in-person-visits-next-week-with-continued-health-safety-protocols)

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NEWS

DOC IMPLEMENTS MODIFIED OPERATIONS AT FACILITIES STATEWIDE

Comprehensive COVID-19 Testing Is Ongoing for All Inmates and Staff

11/14/2020

Massachusetts Department of Correction

MEDIA CONTACT

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MILFORD — As part of a concerted effort to protect the health and safety of inmates, patients, and staff, the Massachusetts Department of Correction is taking affirmative steps in a continuing effort to reduce the introduction, exposure, and transmission of COVID-19 at its facilities.

Beginning today, the Department's 16 facilities will go into modified operations for a period of 14 days to allow the department to continue to provide a second round of universal COVID-19 testing for all inmates while also providing universal testing for staff. Inmates will still have access to medication distribution, sick calls, medical appointments, mental health contacts, showers, disinfecting of rooms, telephone use, and tier time.

General visitation will be temporarily suspended during this time; attorney visits and releases from custody will continue as scheduled. To promote and maintain connected relationships with families and loved ones while the pandemic necessarily limits visitation, the Department launched video visitation this summer and is in the process of expanding its video infrastructure to provide for virtual visitations at all facilities. The Department is also expanding inmate access to phone and email communication during this time.

From the first days of the pandemic, the DOC recognized the unique challenges COVID-19 posed to the people living and working in correctional environments. The DOC's strategies included identifying and utilizing quarantine areas, implementing pre-entry screening areas, enhancing cleaning and sanitizing practices, providing alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and distributing hundreds of thousands of masks, gloves, and other personal protective equipment to inmates, patients, and staff at all facilities. Mobile testing teams provided testing at all DOC facilities this summer, and day-to-day testing for symptomatic inmates and their close contacts has been conducted throughout the pandemic, along with strategic and targeted testing. Department policy continues to be guided by the latest guidance from state and federal public health agencies.

The Department of Correction's **COVID-19 Information Guide** (/guides/doc-coronavirus-information-guide) provides additional information that will help address many commonly-asked questions regarding the DOC's response to COVID-19 and the steps we have taken to help protect the health of those in our care. The latest information about COVID-19 in Massachusetts is available from the **Department of Public Health** (/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19).

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Massachusetts Department of Correction (/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-correction)

The Department of Correction oversees the state prison system, managing inmates at 16 institutions across the state.

More (/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-correction)