State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
WHITTLESEY ROAD
PO BOX 863
TRENTON NJ 08625-0863

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

MARCUS O. HICKS, ESQ.
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Liz Velez
Liz.Velez@doc.nj.gov
(609) 292-4036 ext. 5542

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PREPARED TO ADDRESS COVID-19

Trenton, N.J. – March 11, 2020 – The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC), in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health, is taking necessary precautions and following all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to protect those in state custody, employees, and visitors from COVID-19. Although the Department has not encountered any cases of COVID-19, the following protocols have been implemented out of an abundance of caution at all NJDOC facilities:

- COVID-19 related health screenings at intake of inmates as part of regular health assessments;
- Temperature scans conducted by masked medical staff of all individuals entering our facilities, with follow-up survey questions, as needed, tracking travel activity and contact with individuals impacted by COVID-19;
- Restrictions on the transfer of county inmates that present symptoms of illness;
- Enhanced sanitization and education efforts to mitigate the spread of germs and increased availability of hand sanitizer to staff and visitors;
- Medically supported personal protective equipment, where and when determined to be medically necessary;
- Advanced preparation of medical quarantines for impacted inmates to be utilized if prescribed by medical personnel;
- Information sharing with county jails.

“The safety of those in our custody and our staff is our top priority,” said Commissioner Marcus O. Hicks, Esq. “We are monitoring COVID-19 and will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure the well-being of all those who enter our facility.”

While there are currently no visitor restrictions at NJDOC facilities, the Department temporarily suspended volunteer entrance. Updates to the Department’s visitation policy will be posted on the "Alerts" section of NJDOC.gov and social media platforms, using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

For the latest information on COVID-19, state residents are encouraged to visit nj.gov/health/coronavirus or dial the state’s 24/7 hotline at 1800.222.1222.

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