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Steve Sisolak
Governor

Charles Daniels
Director

State of Nevada
Department of Corrections

March 16, 2020

TO: All Employees

FROM: Charles Daniels, Director

SUBJECT: **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Consistent with national and state health and human services protocols, protecting your health and safety is my top priority. With the issuance of the Governor's emergency declaration we are armed with additional tools and the flexibility to respond to and ultimately contain COVID-19.

With the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center and our Nevada Health Response team, a one stop COVID-19 information website was created to avail you of rapidly developing data, guidance and news impacting you, your family, co-workers and the community. You can access the website here: https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/. NDOC has been actively participating in the fight against COVID-19 and exploring ways to mitigate the impact to our State and its citizens.

Here are the current measures we have already implemented with public, staff and inmate safety in mind:

- Suspended all inmate visitation;
- Legal visitation modified to video only;
- Town Hall meetings conducted and scheduled with staff and inmates at every institution;
- Suspended volunteers and external service provider entry into our facilities;
- Commenced symptom detection protocols to include visual observation of influenza-like symptoms and assessment of body temperature of all individuals entering our facilities. For anyone with a temperature greater than 100.3, will be denied entry and instructed to see a community health care provider immediately;
- Suspended all inmate access to the community;
- Activated an Emergency Operation Center at each facility. The hours of operation are 5 a.m. – 12 a.m. daily, until further notice.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to the victims, families, and friends who have been impacted by COVID-19. This has been a challenging time for all of us, and I just want you to know how much I appreciate your patience, resolve and your selfless determination to protect the public and one another.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to how we address this issue, and this is a rapidly developing situation that we will continue to monitor. All options are on the table to ensure the safety of you and your families.

Please remember to monitor and educate those with an underlying serious or long-term medical condition. Please take additional actions to reduce their risk of getting sick with this virus.

I strongly urge you to:

- Conduct an inventory check of personal items recommended to aid in the fight against COVID-19. Gather extra supplies such as soap, tissue, alcohol-based hand sanitizer and basic pantry staples.

- Make a list of emergency contacts to have on hand—family, friends, neighbors, carpool drivers, health care providers, teachers, employers, local public health department and community resources to include relevant websites.

Perform normal everyday precautions to try to avoid getting sick and avoid people who are sick and wash your hands often.

I have formed a team led by Dr. Minev, NDOC's Medical Director. This group has been directed to provide me with ongoing assessment results and recommendations specific to keeping our staff safe.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please work through your immediate chain of command.

Thank you