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## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

### **Positive COVID-19 Tests**

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MSOC) reported early this afternoon it has learned of additional cases of staff and prisoners who have tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

On March 26, two employees at Detroit Reentry Center tested positive for COVID-19.

Also, three prisoners at Parnall Correctional Facility, one prisoner at Macomb Correctional Facility, one prisoner at Woodland Center Correctional Facility and one prisoner at Lakeland Correctional Facility have tested positive for COVID-19.

Close personal contacts of the prisoners are being identified and contacted.

Total positive tests:

- 7 prisoners
- 1 parolee
- 5 MDOC employees

As of last night, March 25, MDOC had 60+ prisoners under quarantine as non-symptomatic close contacts and they are waiting on 21 tests to come back. All positive cases, their close contacts, and those waiting for test results to come back are also in quarantine.

### **Quarantined Prisoners**

I have had a number of questions regarding what symptomatic prisoners are being told, what their close contacts are being told, and what they are allowed to have and do while quarantined.

Q. How are prisoners being quarantined? Individually in cells? With a bunk?

A. It depends on the physical plant of each facility. Symptomatic cases are quarantined in single cells. Close contacts may be in a single cell, double cell, or a quarantined bay if non-symptomatic.

Q. Are quarantined prisoners allowed any out of cell time? If so, what kind and how much?

A. Close contact prisoners have limited time out of cell for phone calls, showers, and yard. Positive prisoners and prisoners under investigation would generally not be out of cell due to the potential risk to staff and other prisoners.

Q. Do they have access to phones, JPay, SecurePaks, store, library, laundry, etc.?

A. Yes, they have access to phones and laundry. They can also get materials from the law library if necessary. There is no access for the quarantined population to use JPay emails due to a lack of kiosks. Prisoner store merchandise and SecurePak is being held until the prisoner is released from quarantine. Prisoners have very limited property because COVID-19 can be transferred on surfaces. The MDOC is trying to limit the modes of potential transfer of the virus.

Q. Are prisoners told why they are being quarantined.

A. Prisoners who present as symptomatic know the reason they are being quarantined. Prisoners who are close contacts are told they are the close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 and that is why they are being placed in quarantine.

Q. Are other prisoners and staff in the unit of the quarantined prisoners or at their facility being told why other prisoners have been quarantined?

A. Staff and prisoners are aware that prisoners are being moved to be placed in quarantine. The MDOC cannot share specific healthcare information with prisoners or staff, such as the status of specific prisoners or employees.

Q. Will the prisoners be returned to their former units or prisons after the 14 day waiting period?

A. Yes in most cases, but it will be dependent on the operational needs of the MDOC and available capacity when they are cleared for return to the general population.