



Office of  
*Legislative Corrections*  
*Ombudsman*

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**COVID Prisoner Cases and Locations**

Location	Prisoners Tested	Prisoners Confirmed	Prisoners Negative	Pending Tests	Prisoners Recovered	Prisoner Deaths
Alger Correctional Facility	1	0	1	0		
Baraga Correctional Facility	0	0	0	0		
Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility	6	0	6	0		
Carson City Correctional Facility	4	0	4	0		
Central Michigan Correctional Facility	12	0	12	0		
Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center	26	12	12	2		
Chippewa Correctional Facility	1	0	1	0		
Cooper Street Correctional Facility	2	0	2	0		
Detroit Rentry Center	25	15	9	1		
Duane Waters Health Center	10	3	6	1		
Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility	6	0	6	0		
G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility	6	0	6	0		
Gus Harrison Correctional Facility	2	0	2	0		
Ionia Correctional Facility	2	1	1	0		
Kinross Correctional Facility	8	1	7	0		
Lakeland Correctional Facility	55	46	7	2		1
Macomb Correctional Facility	66	60	6	0		
Marquette Branch Prison	7	0	6	1		
Michigan Reformatory	1	0	1	0		
Muskegon Correctional Facility	2	0	2	0		
Newberry Correctional Facility	15	1	12	2		
Oaks Correctional Facility	0	0	0	0		
Parnall Correctional Facility	138	128	7	3		1
Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility	0	0	0	0		
Saginaw Correctional Facility	8	0	8	0		
St. Louis Correctional Facility	2	0	2	0		
Thumb Correctional Facility	1	0	1	0		
Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility	46	34	9	3		
Woodland Center Correctional Facility	8	4	4	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>2</b>

Three new prisons have reported positive prisoner cases as of this afternoon. There is one positive case inside the main prison at the Cotton Correctional Facility and he was moved to the newly opened stand alone unit outside the perimeter of the main prison already housing COVID positive prisoners. Also, one positive case at the Saginaw Correctional Facility who is being moved to a different prison that already has positive cases, and two positive cases at the Ionia Correctional Facility who will also be moved to a prison with existing cases. Close contacts of these new positive cases are being identified and quarantined away from the general prison population.

### Staff Cases

Location	Staff confirmed	Staff deaths
Central Office	1	
Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center	1	
Cooper Street Correctional Facility	1	
Detroit Detention Center	2	
Detroit Reentry Center	11	1
Field Operations Administration Metro	13	1
Jackson Regional Warehouse	2	
Lakeland Correctional Facility	15	
Macomb Correctional Facility	10	
Parnall Correctional Facility	54	
Saginaw Correctional Facility	2	
Thumb Correctional Facility	3	
Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility	11	
Woodland Center Correctional Facility	11	
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>2</b>

## **Potential Release of State Prisoners**

We continue to receive questions regarding the early release of prisoners, if anything, the questions have increased as the pandemic continues. *There is presently no such thing as early release in Michigan.* Current law in Michigan requires prisoners to be incarcerated in a secure correctional facility at least until their minimum sentence has been served. Commutations granted by the Governor which is a time consuming process still requires written notice to victims, prosecutors, and sentencing judges with a 30 day time limit for response and a public hearing before the Parole Board will make a recommendation to the Governor.

There appears to be some confusion regarding Executive Order 2020-29 which Governor Whitmer issued on Sunday, March 29. The EO recommends temporary COVID-19 protocols and enhanced early-release authorization *for county jails, local lockups and juvenile detention centers* to mitigate the spread of the virus. It does *not* affect state prisoners. Executive Order 2020-29 specifically targets individuals who are old, have chronic health conditions, pregnant, are medically frail or are nearing their release date provided they do not pose a public safety risk for those confined in *county jails, local lockups and juvenile detention centers*. The only impact this order has on the MDOC is that it halts the transfer of prisoners from county jails to state prison so they do not unintentionally spread the virus from possibly asymptomatic persons.

The Governor did specifically comment on state prisoners while briefing the media on March 30. The Governor stated that her office was discussing the possibility of speeding up the parole release of some non-dangerous prisoners with MDOC Director Washington. It is unknown at this time which prisoners might be considered for release, what type of criteria would be considered, or when such a decision might be reached.

The MDOC is still working to expedite reviews on eligible cases and some good time or disciplinary credits have been restored for eligible people making additional prisoners eligible for parole consideration who are being interviewed by the Parole Board on 4/10/2020.

Programming that could impact on parole decisions continues at a slower pace to allow for social distancing at prisons without positive COVID cases. The programs have been suspended at prisons with positive COVID cases to try to prevent further transmission of the virus.

The Parole Board has paroled 718 people in this March, compared with 670 in March 201. The Parole Board does not have a target number for April, but it is taking a close look at those who are elderly, medically vulnerable, or non-violent.

### **New step-down unit**

The MDOC opened a previously closed unit at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility (ARF) on Tuesday, April 7, which will operate as a step-down unit for prisoners who are positive for COVID-19, but whose condition is improving.

The prisoners coming to ARF will only be those who have been medically cleared by the MDOC's chief medical officer and are symptom free. So far about 40 prisoners have recovered and have moved to the step-down unit. Additionally, there have been more prisoners that have recovered than have been admitted to the hospital and that is a positive and encouraging sign.

The ARF step-down unit is like the units at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and Carson City Correctional Facility which sit outside the main perimeter of the prison with a separate entrance. The staff who volunteered to work in those units and prisoners transferred there report directly to that unit and do not come into contact with any prisoners or staff in the main prison.

**The information below has been reported in the past, but we still get frequent questions about:**

- Michigan State Industries has been producing masks for prisoners and correctional facility staff to wear. Facilities that had positive cases received masks first, and as production has increased, masks and protective gowns are being sent to all facilities for staff and prisoners. In the meantime, facility staff are permitted to bring their own PPE, such as masks, gloves and gowns.
- All MDOC staff transporting a prisoner on or off grounds are required to be dressed in full personal protective equipment (PPE), which is available for those employees.
- Visitation at facilities statewide has been suspended. In connection with this, face-to-face college classes at all facilities also has been suspended. This is a proactive step to keep all staff and prisoners safe. The MDOC will work with higher education institutions willing and able to deliver classes as correspondence courses. Core programming and school classes taught by MDOC staff will continue.
- Anyone entering facilities will be subject to enhanced screening prior to entering. This includes answering screening questions and having their temperatures taken. Anyone suspected of having symptoms will not be allowed in the facility.
- Outside contractors for substance abuse programming will be allowed inside and will be screened upon entry per the screening protocol. Attorney visits will continue to be authorized.
- The MDOC will continue to process paroles and release prisoners as scheduled, however, Parole Board lifer and commutation public hearings will be postponed.
- During this time, transfers of prisoners or staff between facilities will not be authorized without the approval of the Assistant Deputy Director or higher.
- Corrections Transportation Officers will be reassigned to facilities to augment custody staff as determined by Assistant Deputy Directors.
- All facilities have received approval from the regional sanitation officer to use bleach during facility cleaning. Additional soap is being provided for prisoners and in the bathrooms. Cleaning products are available to clean commonly-used areas and phones before and after use.
- The MDOC does not make the diagnosis of the coronavirus. The department is following the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services protocol. If a prisoner has symptoms and meets the criteria for testing, the MDOC will seek permission from the local health department in the county the prison is in to conduct a test utilizing a test kit. A limited number of test kits have distributed to all MDOC facilities, but can only be used after the MDHHS authorizes the test.