



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Correctional Facilities

March 10, 2020

Prevent the introduction of respiratory germs *INTO* your facility

- We recommend visitation to prisons be suspended until further guidance is issued.
- If for any reason visitation is permitted, post signs instructing visitors, employees, and other persons **not** to visit if they have symptoms of respiratory infection – fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- If visitors, employees, or any other persons seeking entrance have symptoms of respiratory infection such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, do **not** allow them to enter your facility.
- Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Assess symptoms of respiratory infection upon inmate intake to the facility and implement appropriate infection prevention practices.

Prevent the spread of respiratory germs *WITHIN* your facility

- Keep employees and inmates informed.
- Monitor employees and inmates for symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Support hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as cough etiquette by inmates, visitors, and employees.
- Ensure employees are properly trained on infection control procedures.
- Maintain appropriate PPE supplies and practice PPE conservation (PPE includes N95 filtering facepiece respirators or a higher-level particulate respirator, goggles, aprons, and nitrile gloves).
- Isolate persons that are symptomatic, provide them with PPE, along with the person transporting them and caring for them.
- Designate clean teams who may need PPE and consistently disinfect high traffic areas or known contaminated areas.
- Set up stations within the facility where all persons can easily access hand sanitizers.
- Mobilize, inventory, and track all necessary resources.

Prevent the spread of respiratory germs *BETWEEN* facilities

- Notify facilities prior to transferring an inmate with an acute respiratory illness, including suspected or confirmed COVID-19, to a healthcare facility.
- Report any possible COVID-19 illness in employees and inmates. Call the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) at:
 - Daytime (502) 564-3418
 - After hours (888) 9-REPORT / (888) 973-7678

For questions regarding infection control, transmission based precautions, and PPE use, call the Healthcare-Associated Infection / Antibiotic Resistance Prevention Program

- Andrea Flinchum (502) 564-3261 ext. 4248
- Michael Curran (502) 564-3261 ext. 4249
- Chad Eldridge (502) 564-3261 ext. 4251

For the most up-to-date information, visit the following sites:

[CDC General COVID-19 site](#)

[KDPH General COVID-19 Site](#)

[Detailed information specific to law enforcement](#)

[Detailed information specific to healthcare activities within a facility](#)