



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
SPRINGFIELD 62702

COVID-19 RESPONSE

JB PRITZKER
Governor

ROB JEFFREYS
Director

Memorandum

To: Men and Women in Custody

From: Alyssa Williams, Chief of Programs and Support Services

Date: April 2, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update for Men and Women in Custody

The Illinois Department of Corrections is committed to providing you with information and transparency regarding the Department's COVID-19 (coronavirus) response.

As of April 2, 2020, the Department confirmed a total of 53 incarcerated individuals who have tested positive for the coronavirus – 49 at Stateville Correctional Center and 4 at North Lawndale Adult Transition Center. One of those individuals, a man incarcerated at Stateville, succumbed to the disease. Approximately 30 medical technicians with the Illinois National Guard will be assisting with healthcare at Stateville beginning Saturday, April 4.

There are staff who have tested positive for the coronavirus at Crossroads and North Lawndale Adult Transition Centers, Joliet Treatment Center, Kewanee Life Skills Re-Entry Center, Stateville, Stateville NRC, Menard and Sheridan. Those staff are all quarantined at home.

The Department is waiting on the results of more than 200 COVID-19 tests and anticipates the number of positive cases will increase in the days and weeks ahead, just as it is throughout Illinois and the United States. The Department's early decision to go on Administrative Quarantine, suspend in-person visitation, halt transfers, admissions, and non-emergency furloughs, along with the continued push for frequent handwashing and social distancing has helped mitigate the spread of the virus at the institutional level.

The state's experts in both security and healthcare are formulating best practices to protect people who are incarcerated in this unprecedented health crisis. This is why you now are seeing



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staff wearing more Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), like face masks. When staff go home at the end of their shift, they are under Governor JB Pritzker's "Stay at Home" order, allowing them to leave only for essential activities. Those activities put them at risk for exposure to the virus. Providing them with the daily PPE they need is a measure intended to prevent them from introducing the virus from an outside source and causing it to spread.

We know the reports you are getting from your loved ones and the media can create anxiety and tension. None of us have experienced anything like this before. Please know the Department will continue to evaluate what measures need to be taken to battle this pandemic and keep the people who live and work in our facilities safe and healthy.