



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

COVID-19 Plan/Guidelines

Definitions:

Positive: A person who has tested as having the COVID Virus and has not completed their 10-day quarantine or is having symptoms of an active infection.

Negative: A person who has tested Negative for the COVID Virus.

Past Positive: A Person who has tested positive for the COVID Virus within the last 90 days, has completed their 10-day quarantine and has no symptoms.

Exposed: An individual who has been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a person who is Positive.

Exposed Group: A group of individuals who have been within six (6) feet for more than 15 minutes of a person who is Positive.

PCR COVID Test: Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test requires delivery to a lab for resulting and is not to be confused with the "Rapid" test that can be completed on-site.

Intake Pod: A group of new inmates to the ADC who are quarantined together until the testing procedures have been completed.

Quarantine: A strict isolation used to keep a person, or group of persons, who have been, or might have been, exposed to the COVID Virus away from others.

Isolation: A strict isolation used to keep a person who has tested positive for the Covid Virus away from others.

Mask: Cloth, surgical, KN95, or N95 masks are acceptable masks for the DOC. Masks will not have a valve. Masks are worn over the nose and the mouth except when eating/drinking. Masks should be well-fitting to provide the best protection against Covid-19.

Fully Vaccinated: A person who has received their primary series of Covid-19 vaccines.

Crisis Situation: When a unit has a security shortage by 60%, Greater than 50% of unit population in quarantine and/or Essential work details affected by quarantine.

I. Multidisciplinary Response Planning Committee

Each unit will have a multidisciplinary response planning committee that will report to the Central Office through email to the Director and the ADC Health Services Administrator. This team will determine alternate housing sites, feeding schedules, cleaning procedures, and work schedules during the pandemic.

II. Protection, Detection, Testing and Quarantine of Positive and Negative Inmates

1. Once an inmate(s) is determined to be positive, the inmate will be isolated. Medical staff will conduct and document daily wellness checks on isolated inmates.
2. Positive, isolated inmates may be released after 10 days and are symptom-free on day 10.
3. New Positives may be placed in a housing area with other inmates that are isolated as positive. The 10-day isolation is based on the individual; therefore, an isolated inmate will be released from isolation when he/she meets the 10-day timeframe AND he/she is fever free.
4. Inmates who are exposed to another who has tested positive for Covid-19 will be quarantined for up to 10 days only if the facility's risk level is HIGH.
 - If quarantine is warranted based on the risk level of the facility, the exposed group's quarantine time should not extend past 10 days even if there are new positives identified. The time for quarantine does not restart. The length of quarantine may be shortened in crisis situations, such as a security shortage by 60%, greater than 50% of unit population in quarantine and/or Essential work details affected by quarantine. Any requests for shortening a quarantine period based on crisis situations should be communicated from the Warden, Deputy Warden, or their designee through email to the Director and the ADC Health Services Administrator.
 - Inmates with symptoms will be evaluated by the medical staff and testing will be performed. The inmate will be isolated pending the result of the PCR test.
 - Vaccination status is not considered when an inmate is required to quarantine if they have been exposed.

III. Testing Procedures

Procedures will be coordinated with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) to determine the frequency and process of testing. All results will be reported to the ADH if testing from a different lab. Areas undergoing testing are reported to the ADC Health Services Administration Office prior to the event.

IV. Monitoring of Barracks, Communal and Isolation Areas

Monitoring will be conducted for inmates exposed and at an increased risk when the facility's risk level is HIGH. Monitoring will include temperature checks, pulse ox monitoring, and symptom checks as needed at time frames established for the operation of the facility. Officers will assist medical staff as needed or as requested. Medical staff will ask inmates in an exposed barracks if there is anyone experiencing symptoms daily until quarantine is completed. Any inmate reporting symptoms will be evaluated and tested based on symptoms.

V. Transfers Between Units

Inmates that are Positive are not eligible for transfer until their isolation period is complete.

VI. Yard Call

When a COVID Positive inmate has been identified at a unit where the risk level is HIGH, yard call may be conducted one barracks/quarantined area at a time.

VII. School

1. Units that have **NO Positive inmates** will be able to mix barracks for school.
2. Units with **Positive inmates** in their population, excluding new intakes, will send inmates to school by barracks (quarantine barracks/inmates will not go to school during their quarantine or when exposed).
3. Students will be masked and checked for symptoms, in addition to social distancing, according to the Unit's risk level.

VIII. Daily Medical Calls

The medical unit may need to temporarily suspend routine sick calls and chronic care clinics in quarantined areas during some pandemic days. Inmate requests received from quarantined inmates will be triaged, and high priority issues will continue to be addressed, while issues triaged as routine may be held up to 30 days with approval from the ADC Health Services Administration Office. A list of pending non-emergent sick call requests will be maintained for management review.

IX. Parole and Discharge from the Facility

1. **Positives Paroles:** A Positive inmate will be released for parole after he/she has met the isolation requirement of 5 days from the day of the onset of symptoms if he/she is asymptomatic. Inmate may be released after 5 days with instructions to wear a mask for the remaining isolation period.
2. **Positive Discharges:** If an inmate has not met the 5-day isolation requirement since the onset of symptoms, He/she will be issued a KN95 mask and educated/instructed on isolation requirement. Education/instructions will be documented in the electronic health record.
3. Medical will provide all vaccinated inmates with a vaccination card prior to parole or discharge.

X. Outside Medical Appointments

1. The outside appointment may be held or deferred by the outside provider during the pandemic. Some outside facilities will require testing and special procedures. The sending medical scheduler will identify those actions and comply. If the appointment is deferred, the medical scheduler will remain in contact with the facility and reschedule as soon as the facility allows.
2. Appointments and procedures determined to be non-emergent may also be held or postponed due to the decision of the ADC Director and based on transportation and security needs.
3. Due to constraints on officers, outside medical visits may be postponed when the inpatient numbers of inmates in the outside hospital is greater than 15.

XI. Going Out to Court/Returning from Court or Hospital

1. When requested by the courts, inmates will be tested, and the results forwarded to the courts.
2. Inmates returning from court, or a hospital visit do not have to quarantine. Upon their return, inmates will be given a COVID test. If positive the inmate will be isolated per protocol.

XII. Intake

Intake facilities must quarantine intake inmates as a group based on their arrival date. The group will be quarantined for 5 days. Anyone reporting symptoms will be evaluated and tested as indicated.

XIII. 309 Inmate and Work Release Inmates

Work Release and 309 inmates who test positive will be isolated for 5 days from the onset of symptoms, or until fever free for 24 hours, and then may return to work wearing a KN95 mask for 5 days.

XIV. Feeding

Each unit may establish an alternative feeding schedule for Exposed Groups. This alteration must be approved by the unit's respective Deputy Director.

XV. Inmates Personal Protective Equipment

Masking guidelines will be based upon the following for each facility:

- Community risk level
- Status as an intake facility
- Number of active cases/Positivity rate

Weekly, the contracted medical vendor staff will look at the case count from the previous week to determine the risk status of each facility. This is based on a weighted point scale, providing a risk level of High, Medium, and Low for each facility.

High Risk – facility will continue masking; access to vaccines; symptomatic testing; mass testing as appropriate; maintain improved ventilation; isolate/quarantine as per protocol. Quarantine areas should continue masking.

Medium Risk – Facility medical staff will offer masks to all High Risk/immunocompromised inmates. If a High Risk/immunocompromised inmate declines, the staff will have him/her to sign a refusal stating they do not want to mask; access to vaccines; symptomatic testing; maintain improved ventilation; isolate as per protocol.

Low Risk – No masking - individuals may choose to mask; access to vaccines; symptomatic testing; maintain improved ventilation; isolate as per protocol.

If the facility is considered High Risk, the following job categories will be issued two (2) well-fitting KN95 masks each week, or more often as needed due to soiling, for work duties:

- Farm Crews
- Laundry Attendants
- Hall and Office Porters
- Infirmary Workers and Inmate Caregivers
- Kitchen Workers
- Maintenance Crews
- Commissary Workers
- State Police, Governor's Mansion, and Work Release Details
- Any other Community Facing Work Detail

XVI. Visitation

Effective June 1, 2022, visitation guidelines will be based on the unit's Covid Risk Level. All visitors will be subject to the following:

High Risk – facility will require all visitors to submit to mandatory temperature monitoring, rapid testing

prior to entering, and masking; visitors will be limited to two per inmate, non-contact visits only, visits limited to one (1) hour; must schedule prior to visit. Allow 30 minutes for cleaning between visitation groups.

Medium Risk – High-Risk, Immunocompromised individuals are encouraged to wear mask; visits limited to two (2) hours, contact visits approved, 4 people may schedule to visit. Allow 30 minutes for cleaning between visitation groups.

Low Risk – No masking-individuals may choose to mask; visits limited to two (2) hours, contact visits approved, 4 people may schedule to visit. Allow 30 minutes for cleaning between visitation groups.

XVII. Furlough

Inmates coming back from furlough will be rapid tested. If negative, they will be returned to general population and their normal work detail. If positive, they will be placed in isolation for 10 days.

Work Release Inmates returning from Furlough will be rapid tested. If negative, they will be returned to general population and their normal work detail. If positive, they will be placed in isolation for 5 days and then may return to work wearing a KN95 mask for 5 days

XVIII. Employees

1. Volunteers and Visitors will follow the same guidelines as DOC Staff regarding masking and testing.
2. Staff will report any fever, body aches, pains, headaches, cough, and cold symptoms to their immediate supervisor, or the next available level of supervision. If the staff member tests positive, they will notify their immediate supervisor, or the next available level of supervision. The supervisor will notify Human Resources for direction.
3. Masking for staff will follow the same guidelines based on their facility's risk status

High Risk – facility will continue masking; access to vaccines; weekly testing of all staff; maintain improved ventilation; Volunteers will be suspended until risk level is at Medium or Low Risk; isolate/quarantine as per protocol. Staff members working in a quarantine area should continue masking.

Medium Risk – High-Risk, Immunocompromised individuals are encouraged to wear mask; access to vaccines; symptomatic testing of staff; maintain improved ventilation; isolate as per protocol.

Low Risk – No masking-individuals may choose to mask; access to vaccines; symptomatic testing of staff; maintain improved ventilation; isolate as per protocol.

4. Staff within administrative locations and parole and probation offices may wear a mask at their discretion.
5. Staff Hiring will continue.
6. If a staff member is tested for symptoms or as part of a weekly testing due to a High-Risk status and the rapid test indicates a positive result, the contracted medical vendor will conduct a PCR test ASAP. The staff member will be sent home to isolate pending lab results.
7. Staff who test Positive are to isolate for five (5) days from the onset of symptoms, and then mask for five (5) days. If fever persist for more than 5 days, the staff member will return when they are fever free for 24 hours. The KN95 mask is the acceptable mask for this five-day period.

Masks will be kept in the entrance building and provided to staff when reporting to work.

8. Positive Staff will not be tested until 90 days has lapsed from the positive result.
9. If a staff member is tested by the medical vendor, the test results will go to the ADC Human Resources Department. Staff will contact HR for results. The medical vendor is not responsible for testing of family members of staff.
10. Any staff who are exposed do not have to quarantine.
11. The Central Human Resources department will provide direction on days off for employees who are undergoing testing for COVID after exposure or who have a positive test. The email for notification to Human Resources is DOC.COVID.Central.HR@arkansas.gov and the phone number is 870-850-8542.