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[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Coronavirus and the DOC

The DOC is taking new measures at its facilities to mitigate COVID-19 including:

Inmates

- To date, no inmates have tested positive for COVID-19.
- All visitation was suspended effective March 13. DOC will review in 2 weeks.
 - Attorneys and select members of the PA Prison Society are permitted access if they pass the enhanced screening.
- Authorized visitors and inmates can participate in a new video visitation program that allows visitors to participate from home
 - For complete details, including how to schedule a video visit, [read the Video Visitation Visitor Guide](#).
- All inmates will receive 5 free 15-minute phone calls and 5 free emails per week.
- Activities departments have increased activity opportunities.
- Commissary caps have increased from \$70 per week to \$100 per week.
- Town Hall meetings are being held to educate inmates on COVID-19
- Secretary Wetzel recorded an informational video to be posted on the inmate channel for all inmates.
- All inmates are being screened coming in and going out.
- All new inmates are being screened before being admitted into prison. We are not releasing any inmates without screening for symptoms.
- Inmates who have flu like symptoms from counties will not be accepted. All inmates leaving our facilities (parolees, max outs, movements, etc.) will be screened.
- Medical co-pays have been waived for any inmate with influenza like illness (ILI).

Staff

- Each facility is conducting enhanced screening for all individuals entering a facility. No one will be permitted to enter a facility who has a fever over 100.4 or exhibits signs of cold or flu.
- Secretary Wetzel also recorded an informational video for staff.
- Daily updates are emailed to ALL staff to mitigate rumors and provide up-to-date information.
- Personal Protection Equipment is provided to all staff. Masks are being manufactured by Correctional Industries. All CDC and DOH protocols are being followed in reference to masking.

Sanitation

- Institutions are holding town hall meetings with their inmate population to review sanitation guidelines and COVID-19 information for awareness. These meetings are conducted with institutions safety manager and infectious control nurse. Inmates are being educated on prevention/ mitigation efforts.
- Sanitation has increased all throughout the SCI, including housing units and cells.
- Provided all staff with a vehicle sanitation plan explaining how to clean all vehicles.
- Correctional Industries increased production of anti-bacterial soap to ensure all inmates and staff have sufficient supply throughout the institution. Soap is provided free of charge to inmates.
- Directed all equipment (radios, OC, etc.) to be cleaned after each shift and throughout the day.

SCIs

- Every SCI has plans in place for quarantine if an inmate tests positive
- SCI Laurel Highlands and SCI Waymart will not be accepting new inmates. This has been expanded to include SCI-Fayette, which houses oncology.
- Parole violators should be returned to only 3 pre-determined SCIs
- Institutions will continue food services, groups, religious services, and activities. We will evaluate each institution on a case-by-case basis on whether this needs to change.
- All SCIs will identify vulnerable population to keep them isolated.
- Monitoring sick-call and staff health and advising employees to stay home if they are sick.
- Postponing audits, inspections and reentry job fairs that were scheduled for March and April.
- All training at the DOC Training Academy—outside of basic training and the inmate culinary academy—has ceased as of March 16.
- Pennsylvania Correctional Industries is increasing manufacturing capabilities.
 - PCI is manufacturing anti-bacterial soap and masks.

Parole/Field/Reentry

- All parole hearings will continue as scheduled and follow the existing process.
- Bureau of Community Corrections is furloughing eligible reentrants.
- Community Corrections has implemented additional sanitation efforts.
- Community Corrections staff and reentrants are undergoing enhanced screening.
- Field agents have increased contacts via technology.
- Agents are equipped with PPE to use if necessary.

New measures will be enacted when the need arises and as the situation develops. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Pennsylvania, [follow the PA Department of Health](#).

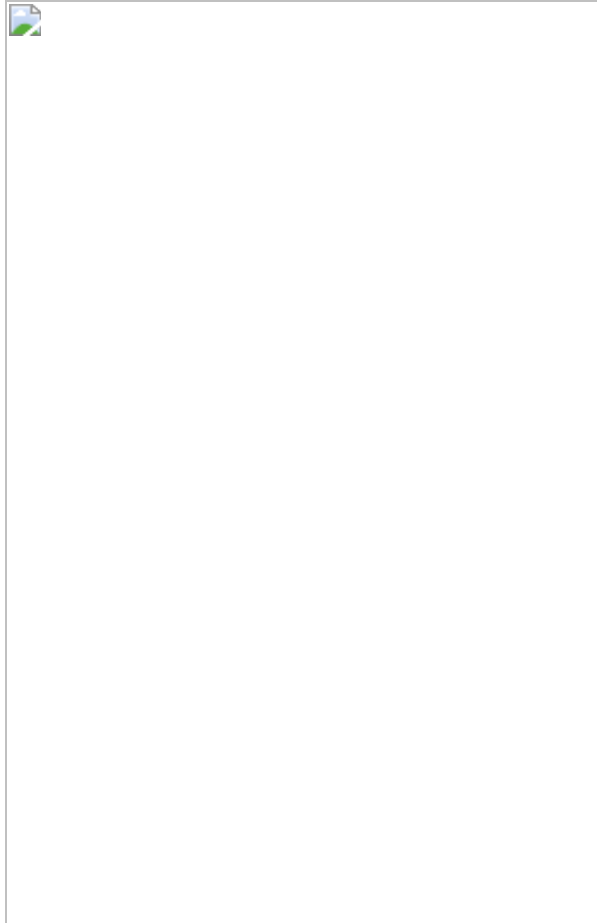
Awareness Tools

Courtesy of the [PA Department of Health](#)





En Español



News Releases

[Department of Corrections Cancels Visits Statewide, Begins Enhanced Screenings of ALL Employees](#) (March 13, 2020)



Governor's Goals

- **Government that Works**

[Stem the tide of the opioid epidemic](#)

- **Government that Works**

[Reduce criminal justice system involvement](#)

- **Schools that Teach**

[Improve access, affordability, and completion in post-secondary education and training](#)

- Schools That Teach
- Jobs That Pay
- Government That Works



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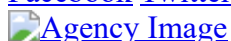
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- [Employee Wrongdoing: 800.677.0330](#)
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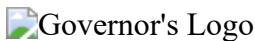


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