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COVID-19 Updates

[Link to Updates for Staff](#)

[Link to Updates for Inmate Families](#)

COVID-19 Testing (updated March 31, 2020)

DOC is following the Minnesota Department of Health testing guidelines for monitoring, isolation/quarantine, and testing of the people incarcerated in our facilities. However, we are not waiting for positive test results to take appropriate precautions. If an incarcerated person exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19, we follow MDH guidance for how our health care and other staff use PPE and interact with those individuals, how to isolate and quarantine them, and how to protect the health of everyone involved.

 covid testing chart

[Commissioner Schnell Statement on Positive COVID-19 Tests \(3/30/20\)](#)

COVID-19 and Visiting

ALL VISITING SUSPENDED: All in-person visiting has been suspended until further notice.

We are working closely with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Department of Public Safety to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 (“coronavirus”) developments.

While many COVID-19 cases seem to be mild to moderate with symptoms similar to colds and flu, some cases may be more severe. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider before going into the clinic. Share with them your symptoms as well as any travel history or other information about potential COVID-19 exposure.

Personal Planning and Preparation

Link to MN Department of Health: [Strategies to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 in Minnesota](#)

For up-to-date information, visit the websites of the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). The best guidance for avoiding COVID-19 is to take the same precautions you take for avoiding colds and flu:

1. Stay home when sick.
2. Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
3. Cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or a tissue, not your hand. Throw the tissue away when you are done.
4. Stay informed. Visit the MDH and CDC websites often.

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