

Key Initiatives



The Kentucky Department of Corrections is working diligently daily to minimize health risks and is committed to following the guidance from the [CDC for Correctional and Detention Facilities](#).

Below is a list of the key initiatives regarding COVID-19 mitigation:

- In-person visitation shall be suspended when a facility experiences an outbreak.
- All facilities have enhanced sanitization efforts. DOC has also increased access to hand sanitizer for staff and soap for inmates, while also educating on the CDC guidance for mitigating the spread of germs.
- We continue to socially distance where and when possible.
- Staff are screened for COVID-19 symptoms every day upon entry. Anyone entering a DOC facility is required to sanitize hands, receive a temperature scan, and answer questions regarding current health symptoms.
- Unvaccinated staff are tested twice per week.
- Outside contractor access is limited to vaccinated individuals when possible.
- Foot sanitation systems have been placed at institution entrances so inmates and staff can kill any germs on their shoes. All state prisons have installed a Far-UV portal system at the entry point. Employees are required to pass through the sanitizing portal when entering the facility. This portal provides the first line of defense in reducing microbes on clothing and personal belongings as people enter the space.
- Masks are mandatory for all staff and inmates.
- The DOC is utilizing quarantine and medical isolation accommodations for symptomatic and exposed individuals across its facilities. If someone shows possible symptoms of COVID-19, the DOC medical team in partnership with the Department for Public Health will determine testing needs and next steps; this includes quarantining, medically isolating, or transferring individuals to a hospital, as needed.
- If any inmate becomes symptomatic for any illness, not just COVID-19, and the prison medical staff cannot handle their care adequately, they are transferred to the hospital.
- When an outbreak occurs at a prison, it immediately begins operating under controlled containment in order to conduct testing and then to separate the facility based on the inmate test results. With these measures, we have in essence locked down the prison by dormitory, while still allowing the things most important to inmates such as time to make phone calls, send electronic mail, and access to the canteen. During an outbreak, medical staff at the facility conduct daily wellness checks on the inmates in their individual cell or living area.
- We are in the process of professionally installing UVC lights in air handlers and ductwork in all DOC buildings to improve air quality, reduce disease transmission, and improve maintenance on all air handling equipment.