

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:

- Visitation is suspended at all facilities.
- All outside programming and volunteer activity is suspended to limit the number of people entering a facility.
- Other than an operational or medical emergency, transfers between institutions remain limited.
- All facilities have enhanced sanitization efforts using germicide and a bleach solution multiple times daily. 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.
- 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 recent travel activity and current health symptoms.
- 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.
- Inmates in state prisons are receiving one free phone call per week and two free messages via a secure electronic mail system.
- Fifteen-minute Zoom visits are being scheduled at all prisons for all general population inmates at no cost. The inmates are offered at least one visit per month with friends or family who are on their approved visiting list.
- All facilities have implemented social distancing, as much as feasible.
- 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.
- In late 2020, the DOC implemented rapid testing for anyone entering a prison. These tests are administered on a rotating schedule in order to ensure every individual is tested once per week.
- When an outbreak occurs at a prison, it immediately begins operating under controlled containment in order to conduct mass testing and then to separate the facility based on the inmates' test result. 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.