



JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

125 HOLMES STREET, 2ND FLOOR
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
(502) 564-7554

JUSTICE MARY C. NOBLE, RET.
SECRETARY

Monday, May 11, 2020

Dear Kentucky Department of Corrections Team:

I recognize that this is a difficult time for everyone both personally and professionally. We are all operating under a lot of uncertainty and stress during this pandemic. All of you are essential, front-line workers who have continued providing services while other services and businesses have shut down. Thank you for the work you are doing; it is very much appreciated.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly and the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet is making adjustments to minimize risks as we continue to see more cases of COVID-19. To date, we have had inmates test positive in two of our facilities.

We have provided cloth masks to corrections staff in all 13 prisons in Kentucky. The cloth masks help stop droplets from entering the air and wearing them prevents germs from spreading if anyone coughs or sneezes. The masks are reusable if laundered properly. We have asked that you do this as part of your current job requirements in this "new normal".

As an added layer of protection, we partnered with our medical provider, Wellpath, to provide drive-through testing for staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 or have been quarantined but not tested. Due to the critical nature of Corrections, the Department for Public Health has been expediting test results for both staff and inmates. I encourage you to utilize this resource if you are not feeling well or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.

In many ways, your best defense is adequate self-care. That includes being aware of your outside environment, protecting yourself and others by continuing to practice social distancing, washing or sanitizing your hands frequently, and wearing masks and gloves when you leave your home. Not only are you protecting yourself through these actions, you are also protecting your family and the inmates you supervise. These steps remains critically important in the closed environments presented by our institutions.

I want to personally thank each of you for remaining committed to our efforts to stay safe and healthy during this state of emergency. I am extremely proud of your ability to meet these new challenges, while maintaining essential operations. I will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation daily and

make adjustments as needed, and I ask you to join me in working to flatten the curve for all Kentuckians.

As Governor Beshear reminds us every day, we will get through this. We will get through this, together. I am proud to serve as your Secretary and look forward to visiting each facility when we can travel again to thank you in person for being heroes during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Noble
Secretary, Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

