

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.
- Transfers between institutions have been stopped with the exception of an operational or medical emergency. New inmates received at an institution are quarantined for 14 days prior to being incorporated with the general inmate population.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 the impacted 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.
- As an added layer of protection for our staff, we partnered with the Corrections medical provider, Wellpath, and implemented drive-through testing for our prison staff who show symptoms while at work or have been quarantined by their health care provider but not tested.