

Key Initiatives

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

Below is a list of the key initiatives taken at all state prisons:

- Visitation has been suspended at all facilities.
- All outside programming and volunteer activity has been 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 and feet, receive a temperature scan, answer questions regarding recent travel activity and current health symptoms.
- Cloth masks were distributed to all staff and inmates.
- All facilities have implemented social distancing, as much as feasible.
- The DOC has developed quarantine and medical isolation accommodations for symptomatic and exposed individuals across its facilities. If someone shows possible signs of COVID-19 the DOC medical team in partnership with the Department of Public Health will determine testing needs and next steps for those who exhibit COVID-related symptoms; this includes quarantining, medically isolating, or transferring the individual 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. Inmates in state prisons are receiving one free phone call per week and two free messages via a secure electronic mail system.