



# The FRAKES Files

20-03

**Director Scott R. Frakes**  
**March 13, 2020**

Dear NDCS Teammates,

We continue to monitor the seemingly minute-by-minute changes brought by COVID-19. I certainly appreciate the patience by staff members during this time. I know you all have your own concerns, based on school situations, travel, events and activities, etc. Everyone has been very professional.

We find ourselves addressing issues as circumstances warrant:

- We canceled an office EAC activity this week, and other meetings may be postponed as a means to mitigate contact.
- Each state has unique factors that must be considered as they develop their response to COVID-19. Several state correctional systems have canceled inmate visitation and curtailing or canceling volunteer programs. We are allowing those activities for now, but have implemented a screening questionnaire for outside guests who wish to enter our buildings.
- Staff members should do a self-assessment when they come to work each day. If you have symptoms consistent with coronavirus (cough, fever and shortness of breath), notify your supervisor.
- In addition to personal steps we can take to mitigate transmission of this illness, we must continue to evaluate our efforts in keeping work spaces germ-free. We will be doing a more thorough job of disinfecting transport vehicles. And I have reiterated to senior leadership that we must make the best use of our inmate porters in continuously cleaning those common areas that receive high levels of contact.
- As I mentioned in a recent communication, we will be curtailing travel as an agency to only those functions essential to conducting business. Any requests pertaining to outside travel need to come to me for approval, prior to making any arrangements.

Gallup's Q10 speaks to the value of having a best friend at work and Q5 reminds us that our supervisors and others care about us as well. We will all need each other in the days and months ahead to stay safe and healthy.

Our Medical Director, Dr. Deol, is a nationally recognized expert in correctional health care. Mark Rumery and his team are experts in emergency response. We have emergency plans, supplies on-hand, and a team of over 2100 people that turn problems into solutions every single day. We eat challenges for breakfast and adversity for dinner. This is our opportunity to show Nebraska just how good we are at carrying out our mission.

Thank you,

Scott R. Frakes