



The FRAKES Files

20-12

Director Scott R. Frakes
June 12, 2020

Dear NDCS Teammates,

If you have seen the news this week, some states are experiencing an uptick in COVID-19 cases. The reasons are probably many, including increased testing. We could see additional surges in positive cases in the months ahead. NDCS remains committed to continue efforts to slow the spread of the virus. Going forward, some strategies will remain in place, while others will be modified in line with reduced restrictions. The newest changes communicated in the last week include:

- Quarantine expectations now only apply to international plane travel. If you travel domestically, you will not need to quarantine upon return
- Temporary work from home authorization will end on June 22, but to keep the human footprint smaller and ensure a 7-day management presence, modified work schedules will continue for the next few weeks
- On June 22, the ability to wear jeans and casual clothes at work will cease

The following strategies will continue for the foreseeable future:

- Wearing procedure masks
- Screening of individuals entering NDCS buildings, including taking of temperatures
- Utilization of universal precautions like handwashing and regular disinfection of work spaces and vehicles. We will continue to provide hand sanitizer to team members and free bar soap to members of the population
- Social distancing will remain part of the normal routine. For the time being, group size will be limited; however, NDCS leadership is developing plans that will allow us to increase group sizes up to 25, resume training, and implement inmate programs/activities in the weeks ahead. We are also planning to resume internal audits/reviews in a few weeks

The following items are being considered for reinstatement:

- Inmate visitation will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. The leadership team will be developing plans that may include things like scheduling of visitors, temporarily modifying visiting hours/days and limiting the number of visits per month
- For now, teammates will continue to work solely in their home facilities. There is no date for allowing overtime at other facilities
- Discussions are underway for resumption of our leadership academies, reentry fairs, STA graduation ceremonies, PIC projects and other things that were suspended

Just as there were multiple changes at the onset of COVID-19, there will be multiple changes as we go forward. We are methodically moving toward normal operations – but normal may not look like it used to. It is likely operations will re-start at different points in time, and for that reason, I encourage you to stay informed. Details will continue to be shared via email by the Central Office Emergency Operations Center (EOC), wardens and other members of our leadership team. Thank you again for your commitment to NDCS!

Scott R. Frakes