



DATE: April 13, 2020
TO: NDCS Inmate Population
FROM: Scott R. Frakes, Director
RE: Necessity of Masks

As of Saturday you all received a personal mask to wear. We will issue a second mask to everyone by Friday night. This will allow you to wash one mask, and have a second mask to wear.

You are required to wear your mask anytime you are outside of your cell. In dormitory settings, you may remove your mask when you are on your bunk.

I know some people have questioned the necessity of wearing a mask. I acknowledge that they are an inconvenience and somewhat uncomfortable. After wearing one for over 10 days, I'm just starting to feel comfortable with having my face covered. In addition to social distancing and the sanitation procedures we are following, the masks are another effective way to slow the transmission of COVID-19. Many of you have asked about removing the masks while exercising. Research shows that people expel even more airborne droplets when exercising. Wearing your mask will keep the people around you healthier, and when they wear their mask – you will stay healthier.

This is a deadly illness. While certain individuals have a greater chance of contracting it due to age and other medical conditions, the fact is, anyone could become sick. The masks we are asking you to wear are for the protection of those around you. COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease, for which there is no vaccine. This illness will not be stopped at the individual level. It will take cooperation from everyone.

I have asked wardens to keep reinforcing the importance of wearing a mask. This is not just for the benefit of those who work and live in our facilities, but also our communities. The more that we can do to keep coronavirus at bay, the greater our chances of keeping all people healthy. As mentioned previously, if you are ill, let medical personnel know. They will help to assess and address your situation quickly.

Scott R. Frakes, Director

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