



# The FRAKES Files

20-17

Director Scott R. Frakes  
August 28, 2020

Dear NDCS Teammates,

As of today, three housing units at NSP are under quarantine, due to a positive case involving an inmate. Unfortunately, the individual waited before notifying staff as to his symptoms. Testing and contact tracing is underway to identify any other positive cases, among inmates and staff members.

Much is still not known about COVID-19 – all the ways it is transmitted, what the incubation period is, and if it is possible to get the virus twice. We know that for some people, it has been fatal, even among those with no other known health conditions.

We have been fortunate to avoid significant outbreaks in our facilities. Considering that much is still unknown about this virus, it is imperative that we continue to rely on the best advice available for preventing this disease. Wearing a mask is at the top of that list. Please model for our inmate population the behavior that we expect everyone to follow. I know some facilities are struggling with noncompliance, especially among the inmate population. It is our job to hold others accountable, including each other.

If you have symptoms, stay home until you are free of those symptoms for at least 72 hours. If you think you need to be tested, reach out to [TestNebraska.com](https://www.testnebraska.com) or your healthcare provider. If you are tested, stay home until those results come back. If you are positive, this is the phone number that you need to call right away: **402-314-7129**. Do not delay in making that call. If you are positive, we need to start contact tracing immediately. Any delay could put others at risk for also getting sick and spreading it inside one of our buildings.

Here in NDCS, we operate in a unique environment. We are essential workers who have contact with many people, in many different locations, throughout the course of the day. Social distancing can be a challenge, which is why wearing a mask provides a barrier that you might not have otherwise. In areas where it is possible to achieve 6 feet of distance from someone else, be sure you are adequately spaced, and continue to wear your mask.

I know that I sound like a broken record at this point in the pandemic. I do not want people to become complacent, only to find out they were in close contact with someone who was positive. This is a good reason to keep exercising caution out in the community as well.

COVID-19 has certainly put many things on hold and has made accomplishing other goals more challenging during 2020. From a big-picture perspective, it has also caused us to work collectively toward a common goal. We need to keep on that path for as long as this pandemic lasts, and continue looking out for each other. NDCS has many things to be proud of – most of all its teammates. Thank you for doing great work!

Scott R. Frakes