Dear NDCS Teammates,

As we continue to battle coronavirus in our facilities and our communities, flu season is also right around the corner. I got my flu shot last month. A number of places are offering vaccinations. If you have insurance with the state through UnitedHealthcare (UHC), there is no cost for getting a flu shot, as it is preventative procedure/care.

There continues to be confusion about what to do if you are sick. If you are not feeling well, for any reason at all, you need to stay home and call your supervisor. No exceptions. The same is true if you have undergone testing for COVID-19. You must remain at home until you have received your test results. If your result is positive call 402-314-7129 right away. Do not wait until the next day or the day after.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to maintain social distancing to the extent possible inside our facilities. Control centers are not a place to congregate. In fact, they are quickly becoming a key location for people to share the virus with each other. We are also noticing more lax behavior among staff when it comes to wearing a mask while at work. This cannot happen. It is the expectation and it is your responsibility to wear a mask on the job. If you are alone in an office with the door closed, you can remove your mask. If the situation dictates that you be in protective gear – don the appropriate PPE and wear it correctly.

Unfortunately, the growing number of inmate and staff cases has caused us to cancel the NDCS Annual Recognition Awards next week. We will table that event for now and see if we can still schedule something yet this year. It is a new world with new challenges and we will continue to evolve and adapt our responses to the pandemic.

I know it is a challenging time, as the number of cases among inmates and staff continue to uptick. People are stepping up in amazing ways to fill the gaps and I appreciate that people are maintaining a positive attitude. Thank you for all you are doing to keep the momentum going!

Scott R. Frakes

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