



# The FRAKES Files

20-21

Director Scott R. Frakes  
November 20, 2020

Dear NDCS Teammates,

COVID-19 has provided us with a steady stream of challenges, both in our personal lives and at work. As we approach Thanksgiving, one of the most popular family holidays, we are in the third wave of a serious pandemic. Over 250,000 Americans are dead, and many are struggling to recover from the effects of being infected. Our health care resources have been stretched thin at the local and national level. The infection rate is growing exponentially. If we work together, we can slow the rate of spread and save the lives of many people – our friends, family members, and perhaps, even ourselves. The strategies have not changed, but the urgency most certainly has:

- Avoid the three Cs – crowded places, close contact and confined spaces
- Wear a mask whenever you are around other people
- Wash your hands, wash your hands, and wash your hands again (for at least 20 seconds)
- Do not touch your face
- Keep your family holiday gatherings small – the safest approach is to celebrate only with the people you live with
- Do not sit and eat food with others at work
- Keep directing inmates to wear their masks anytime they are outside of their cells
- Make sure the sanitation porters are doing a good job. We are paying them well and they need to do good work
- If you have any symptoms, do not come to work. Contact your health care provider if the symptoms continue
- When you see co-workers who are not following the strategies, gently remind them about the need for everyone to do their part
- Get a flu shot. It will greatly reduce your risk of catching influenza, which will prevent weakening your immune system
- When a COVID vaccine is available (essential workers are prioritized), get vaccinated

I cannot require you to follow any strategies that apply outside of work, but the strategies that apply while you are at work are a written expectation from me.

We currently have inmate COVID cases in six facilities. Those cases are being successfully managed. As of this morning, we have 75 COVID positive staff members and 21 in quarantine due to close contact. Everyone continues to do excellent work addressing all the “regular” day-to-day issues, as well as the significant workload caused by COVID-19. I appreciate how everyone has pulled together during the last nine months, and I ask that you continue to do so. This is how we will ultimately overcome the pandemic – Everyone working together. Thank you!

Scott R. Frakes