



# The FRAKES Files

21-06

Director Scott R. Frakes  
April 16, 2021

Dear NDCS Teammates,

The expectation for ALL NDCS staff to wear a mask while in the workplace remains in effect until further notice. The pandemic is not over. While the CDC has issued some direction on how families and friends can safely interact in the home if everyone is vaccinated, it does not apply to our situation. We cannot assume that everyone is vaccinated, nor can we ask. The temporary stop in issuing the Johnson and Johnson vaccine has slowed our efforts to provide vaccine to the inmate population, and unfortunately, that is a critical step in the process to move away from strategies like social distancing and the wearing of masks.

While the infection rate has slowed significantly in most of America, the pandemic is still in full force across the globe. Yesterday, over 810,000 cases were reported world-wide, with 13,500 deaths. That's the second highest number of cases diagnosed in a single day. It would appear the fourth wave is gaining momentum.

I do remain optimistic, and still believe we will be in a good place by the middle/end of summer. We will not get there if we drop our guard too soon.

- Even while socially distanced, you must wear your mask while at work
- Even if you receive your vaccine, you must wear your mask while at work
- Social distancing should continue to be utilized during eating. Groups of people should not be congregating
- You may remove your mask if you are alone in your office. If you share a space with someone else, it needs to be worn
- Keep utilizing the universal health precautions like washing your hands, avoid touching your face and keeping your areas disinfected

You may have heard the motto, "All for one and one for all." The phrase was made popular in the novel *The Three Musketeers*. The idea is that each person should act for the benefit of the group and the group should also act in a manner that benefits the individual. We may not be swashbucklers (like the characters in the book), but we take pride in how we take care of each other within the NDCS family. We must remain unified in keeping our fellow staff members, the incarcerated population and our visitors healthy.

Thank you,

Scott R. Frakes