



Commission of Correction

ALLEN RILEY
Chairman

THOMAS J. LOUGHREN
Commissioner

CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

NO: 5-2020

DATE: April 4, 2020

TO: SHERIFFS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, WARDENS, JAIL PHYSICIANS, FACILITY MEDICAL DIRECTORS, CHIEFS OF POLICE, AND SSD FACILITY DIRECTORS

RE: Health Advisory: Recent CDC and DOH COVID-19 Guidance Relevant to Correctional and Detention Facilities

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published [Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#). This guidance contains recommendations on several topics relevant to institutions, including: enhanced cleaning/disinfecting and hygiene practices; social distancing strategies; infection control, including recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) and potential alternatives during PPE shortages; screening of incoming incarcerated individuals; staff and visitors; and evaluation, quarantine and clinical care of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19.

For your further reference, the New York State Department of Health (DOH), recently published [Protocols for Essential Personnel to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection](#). This guidance provides recommended criteria to allow personnel who were exposed to, or are recovering from COVID-19, to work in the workplace setting if needed to maintain essential operations.

Please immediately review this information with your respective administration and local health officials, and make any necessary adjustments to your policies, procedures and operations in response to this rapidly evolving public health crisis. Detention facilities are at greater risk for the spread of communicable disease, due to the number of individuals living in close proximity to one another, facilities must take all available precautions to minimize the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak, while simultaneously maintaining a safe and secure facility.

Allen Riley, Chairman