



## MESSAGE FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



IndianaDOC



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April 6, 2020

Dear family, friends, and loved ones of incarcerated individuals,

As we face this “Challenge of our times”, there is much uncertainty about what is to come in the days and weeks ahead. Having a loved one in prison only adds to that uncertainty. I believe it’s important that you know the steps we are taking, and how you can find updates in our efforts to resist the spread of COVID-19, and limit its impact on those incarcerated within IDOC’s juvenile facilities and prisons.

As we work through this public health emergency, please know that our goal is the same as yours; to keep your loved ones safe and healthy. To that end, we are doing all we can. The IDOC’s efforts are closely aligned with the national Center for Disease Control’s recently updated “Interim Guidance on the Management of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities.”

Just a few of the measures we have taken include, social distancing by preventing visitors, volunteers and unapproved persons from entering facilities, and carefully screening all others before they are admitted. Newly sentenced inmates begin in a quarantine-like status until it is confirmed they do not have signs of the disease. We have begun a cleaning campaign in which inmates and staff alike are continuously deep-cleaning and sanitizing areas throughout facilities; and we have a specially trained response team at-the-ready to disinfect any area that might be exposed. We have waived all medical co-pays associated with the Coronavirus.

Experienced and trained staff are in continuous contact with Indiana’s State Department of Health. We are prepared to handle any case of COVID-19 that may infiltrate our facilities; and staff are prepared to take the steps necessary to ensure those incarcerated receive appropriate medical care.

Unfortunately, I am apprised by health care professionals that this situation will likely get worse in the coming weeks before it gets better. Our website and social media accounts will have the most up-to-date information, so I encourage you to follow the IDOC on Facebook or Twitter, and to check our website frequently for updated information.

I encourage you to continue to contact your loved one’s to offer them encouragement, support and reassurance; just as I expect them to provide the same level of support and reassurance to you. To assist with this communication, we have worked with telephone and video services providers to permit, throughout the coming weeks, eligible inmates the ability to make, free of charge, two five-minute phone calls each week, as well as one weekly 10-minute video visit.

Your compassion and support is important, and in many cases essential, to ensuring incarcerated individuals observe good self-care practices, maintain good mental health, and continue their ongoing efforts to complete treatment and programming expectations toward their overarching goal of returning to you, and successfully re-entering our community.

Sincerely,

Rob Carter  
Commissioner, IDOC