



# General Considerations for Jails

## **Background**

Congregate living conditions, such as in jails and other detention facilities, have potential for the rapid transmission of COVID-19. Additionally, widespread community transmission and movement of staff and inmates in and out of a facility result in a continuous risk of introduction.

This document is intended to provide some general considerations on screening, personal protective equipment (PPE), and the appropriateness of testing at jails or other detention type facilities. Facilities should create and implement a COVID-19 response plan to minimize potential transmission and respond appropriately to cases of COVID-19. This guidance is not intended to replace the CDC guidance found on their website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>

Jails and detention facilities can determine, in collaboration with local and state officials, whether and how to implement the following considerations and potential testing strategies. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, and acceptable, and should be tailored to the needs of each facility. These considerations are meant to supplement—not replace—any local considerations already in place and health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which facilities must comply.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/testing.html>

There are five things you should consider doing in your facility every day:

1. Make sure your staff are not coming in sick with a fever, shortness of breath, and/or a cough. If somebody is sick as they report to work, they need to go home.
2. Screen offenders who are coming into custody to ensure they do not have a fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath. Depending on your circumstances, it is best to have a no-touch means of taking a temperature. If the temperature is over 100.4 degrees, that person requires additional screening.
3. Know about exposures of individuals or if they have they been in an area where there is transmission ongoing in the community before they come to your facility. Have they been exposed to cases on the outside prior to coming in?
4. Evaluate your need for Personal Protective Equipment for staff and others coming into the facility.
5. Evaluate a mechanism for COVID-19 testing, if necessary.

## Considerations for Screening/Testing

- Identify individuals with COVID-19 signs or symptoms and help lower the risk of transmission. Individuals would include staff, visitors, and those being processed into the facility.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- To identify individuals with symptoms, facilities, at a minimum, should integrate temperature screening and symptom checks into their standard practices (i.e., among individuals at intake, prior to discharge/release or transfer; daily staff screening; screening of volunteers and vendors upon entry).
- Isolate symptomatic individuals. Symptomatic staff should be promptly excluded from work, initiating cohorts of inmates should be considered, and all symptomatic individuals should be tested for COVID-19. Testing of asymptomatic individuals should be considered.
- Facilities should quickly initiate response actions when individuals receive a COVID-19 positive test result, such as isolation and quarantine of their close contacts, and work exclusion of those infected and quarantine of their close contacts. Facilities must report COVID-19 case information to the DHSS Electronic COVID-19 Case Reporting System, and work with the Local Public Health Agency on isolation and quarantine.  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/case-reporting.php>
- There are several ways a facility may choose to include testing in their COVID-19 response plan.
  - Local public health agencies, local hospitals or clinics, or local emergency medical services may be potential testing partners.
  - DHSS maintains a list of sites throughout the state where COVID-19 testing is offered.  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/mobile-testing.php>
  - A “Box-It-In” or “Sentinel” testing strategy should be considered for this type facility. Guidelines can be found in the Missouri Statewide Testing and Covid-19 Reduction Strategy. The Local Public Health Agency may have additional guidance on testing strategies.  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/cares-act-funding.php>
  - There are several types of COVID-19 tests available. Information on these is also maintained on the Missouri Statewide Testing and Covid-19 Reduction Strategy website.  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/cares-act-funding.php>
  - Eligible local governments, political subdivisions, and quasi-public governmental bodies may participate in a cooperative purchasing program with the State of Missouri and access qualified laboratory vendors for COVID-19 testing.

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/doc/state-and-community-based-testing-qvl-statewide-notice.docx>

<https://oa.mo.gov/purchasing/cooperative-procurement-program>

- Results of testing must be reported to DHSS within 24 hours and should also be communicated with Local officials and to any facility that the individual may be transferred.

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/so-congregate-living-covid-reporting-order.pdf>

### **Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment**

- Considerations should be given for facility staff who must come in close contact with individuals during the screening process at intake or an individual confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 on wearing appropriate PPE.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>

- Facilities looking to acquire PPE can make a request to SEMA via WebEOC through:
  - Sheriff's department,
  - Local Emergency Management Agency, or
  - Local Public Health Agency.

- Missouri PPE Marketplace can also be utilized for PPE resources.

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/ppe.php>

- The CARES Act Funding Toolkit for Local Governments is located on the DHSS website and outlines eligible expenses for CARES Act Funding, along with testing strategies.

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/cares-act-funding.php>