

Updated: February 4, 2021

COVID-19 Response Policy

West Virginia's Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) updated its comprehensive COVID-19 response policy in December 2020 to reflect the latest information and best practices from the CDC and WVDHHR. The goal remains to provide the necessary guidance and direction to superintendents and other staff in order to protect the health and safety of everyone in their facilities.

This DCR policy:

- Educates employees and inmates about COVID-19;
- Explains proper health, hygiene, and sanitation practices;
- Emphasizes frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas;
- Incorporates the latest CDC guidance and standards for screening protocols for inmates, employees, and contractors;
- Outlines procedures for the use of personal protective equipment, the movement of affected inmates and other relevant topics;
- Details practices for sick employees; and
- Covers quarantine and isolation options.

This information continues to be updated whenever warranted.

Additional details:

- As part of the screening protocol, the temperature of anyone entering a DCR facility or building is taken including inmates at booking as well as both inmates and employees before and after transports.
- Inmate medical co-pays remain suspended.
- All video kiosks and tablets display COVID-19 information at startup, and cover the same topics found on the CDC and WVDHHR resource pages including guidance on personal hygiene. This information appears before inmates can use the devices.
- DCR continues to work with the judiciary to utilize video court appearances whenever possible.
- Until non-attorney visitation can safely resume at facilities, DCR will continue to ensure electronic visitation and phone call access.
- The vendors for DCR's phone, kiosk, and tablet services have all agreed to continue providing weekly allotments of free phone calls and video visits.
- Inmates can continue to send and receive letters by U.S. mail, while the kiosks and tablets also allow inmates to email approved addresses.
- DCR leadership continues to monitor facility conditions daily to determine any additional steps or actions.
- Random testing of staff continues.
- As essential personnel, vaccines have been made available to DCR staff.