

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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Technical Assistance Memorandum

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director
DATE: March 17, 2020
RE: COVID-19 General Recommendations

In an effort to assist you during the COVID-19 Pandemic, please find below general recommendations that may be of assistance.

1. Screen everyone entering the facility, via the public lobby or the vehicular sallyport. This will include law enforcement officials, attorneys, arrestees, and any visitors.
2. Screen facility staff at the beginning of each shift.
3. Limit movement of inmates within your facility.
4. Limit or suspend outside work details for inmates.
5. Ensure proper sanitation of all food service equipment (trays, cups, utensils, etc).
6. Screen all inmate workers before beginning a work detail, especially kitchen and laundry workers.
7. Provide and ensure personal protection equipment (ie. masks and gloves) are used by inmate workers, especially within the kitchen. Ensure Kitchen/Food Service workers adhere to hygiene standards and handwashing techniques.
8. Inform staff and inmates of proper handwashing techniques as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
9. Inmates should be provided cleaning supplies multiple times daily for wiping down tables, benches, sinks, toilets, and phones in an effort to prevent widespread infection.
10. Explore options for releasing non-violent misdemeanor offenders with local county/district attorney.
11. Explore options with local arresting agencies regarding 'cite and release' for those who commit non-violent crimes in order to reduce number of individuals booked into the facility.

In addition, please find attached an expanded screening form that you may utilize. If you already have one in place, please continue to utilize.

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Dr. Esmail Porsa, M.D., Parker, Vice-Chair
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"The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview".

To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas