

DAUPHIN COUNTY PRISON

Commissioners
JEFF HASTE, CHAIRMAN
MIKE PRIES, VICE CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. HARTWICK III
Chief Clerk / Chief of Staff
CHAD SAYLOR



501 MALL ROAD
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17111
TELEPHONE (717) 780-6800
FAX (717) 558-8825

Director of Corrections
BRIAN S. CLARK, CCHP

Warden
GREGORY C. BRIGGS

Director of Security
ROGER C. LUCAS

Director of Treatment
JOHN A. ADDISON

Director of Operations
BRENDA E. HOFFER

**Director of Training &
Staff Development**
JAMES M. LUBOMSKI

COVID-19 FAQs

Q: What is being done to protect inmates and staff?

The prison began implementing a pandemic plan in March, which included having the temperature taken for anyone who entered the facility, suspending in-person visitation, and offering free video visitation. The plan also included personal protective equipment for inmates and staff, quarantine time periods for new intakes, rolling symptom checks on the inmate population, assessment of all staff arriving for work, and increased cleaning procedures to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations. Transfers to and from the Prison were temporarily suspended. Operational changes were implemented for social distancing.

Q: Is testing being done?

We test everyone admitted to the facility for both COVID-19 antibodies (previous infection) and with a nasal swab (RT-PCR Testing) to identify those previously positive or currently positive for COVID-19. COVID-19 has a prolonged incubation period. Spread to others can occur with the infected person having no sign or symptoms of the illness.

The first facility-wide testing was conducted proactively in May. Subsequently, through the proactive testing of new inmates, additional positive cases appeared in Dauphin County Prison, and a second facility-wide testing was conducted in June to identify and isolate additional positive cases.

Q: What happens if an inmate or staff person tests positive?

An inmate testing positive is moved to an isolation unit for 21 days. Medical takes additional steps with their care, including vitamins to boost the immune system. Anyone who may have been exposed to the positive inmate, but who has not tested positive him/herself, is placed in a quarantine unit for 14 days to determine if the inmate will go on to develop the infection.

Everyone who is COVID positive receives an assessment that is done one or two times a day, and they are seen frequently by Medical staff. Mental Health staff is frequently present in the quarantine and isolation units to assist patients. The daily assessments include vital signs and assessment for respiratory issues. Treatment Specialists are making daily tours through the housing units assigned to them to speak with inmates to identify any questions and concerns.

Any staff exhibiting symptoms is directed to not report to work. Any staff testing positive is required to finish a 14-day quarantine and be symptom-free for 72 hours before returning to work.

Q: What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation is an area of housing for like-status inmates. Generally, inmates are not single-celled. Cohort housing is used for positives with positives.

Anyone who was around someone positive, but who has not tested positive him/herself, is placed in a quarantine unit for 14 days. Cohort housing is used in quarantine units. In the event a quarantine housing unit is coming off quarantine but there is someone who tests positive in that unit, the 14-day quarantine period restarts.

Q: How can I contact an inmate if visits are not allowed?

Inmates have use of the tablet system, which allows for telephone calls, messaging, and video visitation. Inmates may also receive U.S. mail. Inmates on restrictive housing for disciplinary actions may have tablet and phone privileges suspended but may still be contacted through U.S. mail.

Q: How can I get information about the status of an inmate?

If you need information above and beyond your communication with the inmate, please contact the Prison at 717-780-6800 to leave a message for an administrator, who will return your call as soon as available.

Q: Will I be notified if my loved one goes to the hospital?

If an inmate is admitted to the hospital with COVID-related illness, the emergency contact person designated by the inmate will be notified by Prison Administration.

Q: How often are inmate face masks washed?

Inmate cloth masks are laundered twice a week at 140 degrees water temperature with detergent plus chlorine sanitizer. They are dried at 180-202 degrees. The same process is used to launder and sanitize towels and linens.

Q: Do inmates have access to hand sanitizer?

Inmates are provided hand soap and encouraged to wash their hands frequently. All inmates have access to hand soap and hot water in their housing area. This information was disseminated to inmates via the inmate tablet system. In the event an inmate has contact with the public (i.e., attorney, law enforcement, etc.), they are given the opportunity to use hand sanitizer.

Q: Is an inmate charged for COVID testing and/or related medical care?

No

Q: Do inmates have access to outdoor exercise?

Recreation has historically been held in the gymnasium. We have been working on a plan to provide outdoor recreation. Once movement is no longer restricted due to COVID, we will continue the path toward implementation.

Q: Is there a problem with HVAC and hot water?

Our HVAC system is frequently serviced, and we are aware of no issues with the system. When there are extreme temperature changes, it may take up to 24 hours for the temperature on a housing unit to fully regulate, due to the size of the facility.

There was an intermittent situation with water that had to be diagnosed, but the facility was not without water. There is a system that mixes the hot and cold water that malfunctioned. It took a period spanning several days until the problem was isolated and repaired. The facility currently has no water issues – hot or cold.

Q: Is there a shortage of masks and sanitizer?

We have a substantial amount of supplies for cleaning and protective equipment.

Q: How can attorneys interact with their clients?

Attorneys are encouraged to interact with their clients by telephone or video conferencing.

Q: Are clergy services being provided?

We have chaplain staff providing chaplaincy services. Volunteer clergy are temporarily not visiting the facility.

Q: Are Court proceedings being held?

The Court of Common Pleas continues to work with Dauphin County Prison to limit inmate movement to help in the mitigation of COVID spread. When it is safe to continue Court operations, this will be done in conjunction with the Court of Common Pleas, Magisterial District Judges, and the Federal Courts.

Q: Why hasn't a State-sentenced inmate been moved to a State facility?

Due to the pandemic, operational changes have been made by both the County and State related to transfers. Transfers are made as soon as possible after mandatory testing and a negative test result.

Q: What is the Community Advisory Committee?

The Community Advisory Committee was formed in 2019 to assist Dauphin County Prison and the community. Members are available to accept comments and questions:

Brandon Flood – bflood22@live.com
Larry Washington – lwashi2222@aol.com
Angel Fox – afox@pahouse.net
Kia Hansard – kiahansard@aol.com
Charla Plaines – cplaines@attorneygeneral.gov