



## **COVID-19 Law Enforcement and Corrections Risk Reduction**

Concerns continue to mount over COVID-19 and many of our members have stepped up their efforts in attempt to reduce the risk from spreading to employees and to inmate populations. States, including Nebraska are declaring states of emergency, but law enforcement and correction officers don't always have the luxury to exercise precautionary measures when it comes to dealing with the public.

During this trying time and uncertainty, law enforcement and correction staff need to be protected. Administrators need to develop protocols for contingencies to maintain essential operations and still provide a level of protection to all who could be affected..

Attorney Jack Ryan, Legal and Liability Risk Management Association put together a memorandum for law enforcement consideration, which we have emailed out to all Sheriff's and posted on web page under our NIRMA Blog section.

Amidst the growing concern of COVID-19 additional recommendations are noted that can assist with limiting exposure to jail facilities that could have a tremendous impact on inmates, community and staff.

**Corrections personnel at time of admissions should be screening all new admittances for symptoms of COVID-19 and consider asking each additional question during the admittance process:**

- Have you traveled outside of the United States in the past 30 days? If so, when and where.
- In the past 30 days, has the person been in close contact with anyone known to have traveled outside of the United States or any state that has confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus? If so, when and where.
- Have you traveled to areas outside of Nebraska that have reported outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus? If so, when and where.
- Has anyone you have been in contact with been confirmed, been tested, been placed in quarantine or self-quarantined due to COVID-19?
- Today or in the last seven (7) days have you experienced:
  - 1) Fever? If yes, explain
  - 2) Shortness of breath or other respiratory illnesses? If yes, explain
  - 3) Diarrhea? If yes, what color and form is your stool?
  - 4) Uncontrollable coughing? If yes, explain
  - 5) Sore Throat that cannot be attributed to an underlying or previously recognized condition? If yes, explain

## **Preventing COVID-19 In Your Facility**

1. Make sure staff is 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. Enhanced screening of 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 no-touch means of taking a temperature. If the temperature is over 100.4 degrees, the person requires additional screening for COVID-19.
3. Conduct random temperature checks of inmates and staff.
4. Learn about COVID-19, learn about exposures, learn how to combat COVID-19.
5. Keep equipment and facility disinfected, areas should be sanitized a minimum of three times per shift. Increase daily cleaning and sanitization regimens areas frequented by staff and inmates. Disinfect keyboards, door handles, transport vehicles, counter surfaces, phones as well as anything handled.
6. Controlling access to facility, unfortunately many inmate programs generated from outside sources may need to be suspended.
7. Ensuring staff are constantly washing hands or using sanitizers, especially after every task activity.
8. Ensure staff are wearing Nitrile or protective gloves at all times.
9. Proper disposal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) after usage to prevent further contamination.
10. Inmates experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 need to be quarantined to limit the spread of the disease. Isolate anyone showing signs of the virus from other inmates and notify medical provider for further instructions.
11. Inmates showing signs of COVID-19 should be placed in a fitted N-95 or disposable mask to prevent the spread of the disease.
12. Be prepared, take and keep a vigilant approach in protecting staff, family, inmates and the community.
13. After every tour of duty staff uniforms or clothing worn during the shift should be washed as soon as possible. Tour of duty clothing should be washed separately from other personal clothing.
14. If an individual is found to have potential illness concerns upon intake, ensure medical is contacted to determine whether the person fit to confine, and your facility can meet the medical needs of the person.