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April 2, 2020

Francis V. Kenneally, Clerk
Supreme Judicial Court
John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square, Suite 2500
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Committee for Public Counsel Service, et al v. Chief Justice of the Trial Court et al
SJC Docket No. SJC-12926

Dear Clerk:

In response to the SJC request, Hampden County Sheriff's Department provides the following answers to the Court inquiries

Hampden County Responses to SJC Questions

1. Approximately what percentage of inmates or detainees sleeps within six feet of another inmate or detainee? Individuals in disciplinary isolation should be excluded from this estimate.

Main Institution: 0% sleeps within six feet of one another. (100 % are able to sleep six feet or more apart utilizing in some units, head to toe positioning consistent with Center for Disease Control Guidelines (CDC)). Additionally, with respect to the bunk beds all are separated by a steel barrier with no holes.

Women's' Facility: 0 % sleeps within six feet of one another. (100% with head to toe positioning based on Center for Disease Control Guidelines (CDC)).

Additionally, with respect to the bunk beds all are separated by a steel barrier with no holes.

Western Massachusetts Regional Recovery and Wellness Center: 0 % sleeps within 6 feet of one another. (100% with head to toe positioning based on Center for Disease Control Guidelines (CDC)).

Pre-Release Center: 0 % sleeps within six feet of one another. (100% with head to toe positioning based on Center for Disease Control Guidelines (CDC)).

2. Approximately what percentage of inmates or detainees eat meals within six feet of another inmate or detainee?

Main Institution: 100% of our population is able to eat at approximately 5 ½ feet apart based on the size of the tables we currently have. We would be able to spread individuals apart further if they were not required to eat at tables, but that would require us to obtain a waiver as it is required under the CMR's that our populations eat at tables.

Women's' facility: 0% eat within six feet of one another.

Western Massachusetts Regional Recovery and Wellness Center: 0% eat within six feet of one another.

Pre-Release Center: 0% eat within six feet of one another.

3. Approximately what percentage of inmates or detainees are permitted to be within six feet of each other during recreation periods?

It is difficult to say what percentage is permitted to be within six feet of one another during recreation period. However, 100% of our populations at all facilities have the option to social distance at 6 feet apart during recreation. 100 % of our populations at all facilities have been educated about the importance of social distancing. However, some choose not to social distance during recreation, and are reminded about the risks involved. Additionally, ALL individuals in our populations MUST wear a mask anytime they are out of their cells and during recreation time.

Respectfully Submitted,


Theresa Finnegan
General Counsel