

- As a cohort, in a large, well-ventilated cell with solid walls and at least 6 feet of personal space assigned to each individual in all directions, but without a solid door
  - As a cohort, in single cells without solid walls or solid doors (i.e., cells enclosed entirely with bars), preferably with an empty cell between occupied cells creating at least 6 feet of space between individuals. (Although individuals are in single cells in this scenario, the airflow between cells essentially makes it a cohort arrangement in the context of COVID-19.)
  - As a cohort, in multi-person cells without solid walls or solid doors (i.e., cells enclosed entirely with bars), preferably with an empty cell between occupied cells. Employ [social distancing strategies related to housing in the Prevention section](#) to maintain at least 6 feet of space between individuals housed in the same cell.
  - As a cohort, in individuals' regularly assigned housing unit but with no movement outside the unit (if an entire housing unit has been exposed). Employ [social distancing strategies related to housing in the Prevention section above](#) to maintain at least 6 feet of space between individuals.
  - Safely transfer to another facility with capacity to quarantine in one of the above arrangements (NOTE – Transfer should be avoided due to the potential to introduce infection to another facility; proceed only if no other options are available.)
- Quarantined individuals should wear face masks if feasible based on local supply, as source control, under the following circumstances (see [PPE section](#) and [Table 1](#)):
    - If cohorted, quarantined individuals should wear face masks at all times (to prevent transmission from infected to uninfected individuals).
    - If quarantined separately, individuals should wear face masks whenever a non-quarantined individual enters the quarantine space.
    - All quarantined individuals should wear a face mask if they must leave the quarantine space for any reason.
    - Asymptomatic individuals under [routine intake quarantine](#) (with no known exposure to a COVID-19 case) do not need to wear face masks.
  - Staff who have close contact with quarantined individuals should wear recommended PPE if feasible based on local supply, feasibility, and safety within the scope of their duties (see [PPE section](#) and [Table 1](#)).
    - Staff supervising asymptomatic incarcerated/detained persons under [routine intake quarantine](#) (with no known exposure to a COVID-19 case) do not need to wear PPE.
  - Quarantined individuals should be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms twice per day, including temperature checks.
    - If an individual develops symptoms, they should be moved to medical isolation immediately and further evaluated. (See [Medical Isolation](#) section above.)
    - See [Screening](#) section for a procedure to perform temperature checks safely on asymptomatic close contacts of COVID-19 cases.
  - If an individual who is part of a quarantined cohort becomes symptomatic:
    - If the individual is tested for COVID-19 and tests positive: the 14-day quarantine clock for the remainder of the cohort must be reset to 0.
    - If the individual is tested for COVID-19 and tests negative: the 14-day quarantine clock for this individual and the remainder of the cohort does not need to be reset. This individual can return from medical isolation to the quarantined cohort for the remainder of the quarantine period.
    - If the individual is not tested for COVID-19: the 14-day quarantine clock for the remainder of the cohort must be reset to 0.
  - Restrict quarantined individuals from leaving the facility (including transfers to other facilities) during the 14-day quarantine period, unless released from custody or a transfer is necessary for medical care, infection control, lack of quarantine space, or extenuating security concerns.
  - Quarantined individuals can be released from quarantine restrictions if they have not developed symptoms during the 14-day quarantine period.
  - Meals should be provided to quarantined individuals in their quarantine spaces. Individuals under quarantine should throw disposable food service items in the trash. Non-disposable food service items should be handled with gloves and washed with hot water or in a dishwasher. Individuals handling used food service items should clean their hands after removing gloves.
  - Laundry from quarantined individuals can be washed with other individuals' laundry.
    - Individuals handling laundry from quarantined persons should wear disposable gloves, discard after each use, and clean their hands after.
    - Do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.

- Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces. If permissible, consider using a bag liner that is either disposable or can be laundered.

## Management of Incarcerated/Detained Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms

**NOTE:** Some recommendations below apply primarily to facilities with onsite healthcare capacity. Facilities without onsite healthcare capacity or without sufficient space for medical isolation should coordinate with local public health officials to ensure that suspected COVID-19 cases will be effectively isolated, evaluated, tested (if indicated), and given care.

- If possible, designate a room near each housing unit for healthcare staff to evaluate individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, rather than having them walk through the facility to be evaluated in the medical unit.
- Incarcerated/detained individuals with COVID-19 symptoms should wear a face mask and should be placed under medical isolation immediately. Discontinue the use of a face mask if it inhibits breathing. See [Medical Isolation](#) section above.
- Medical staff should evaluate symptomatic individuals to determine whether COVID-19 testing is indicated. Refer to CDC guidelines for information on [evaluation](#) and [testing](#). See [Infection Control](#) and [Clinical Care](#) sections below as well.
- If testing is indicated (or if medical staff need clarification on when testing is indicated), contact the state, local, tribal, and/or territorial health department. Work with public health or private labs as available to access testing supplies or services.
  - If the COVID-19 test is positive, continue medical isolation. (See [Medical Isolation](#) section above.)
  - If the COVID-19 test is negative, return the individual to their prior housing assignment unless they require further medical assessment or care.

## Management Strategies for Incarcerated/Detained Persons without COVID-19 Symptoms

- Provide [clear information](#) to incarcerated/detained persons about the presence of COVID-19 cases within the facility, and the need to increase social distancing and maintain hygiene precautions.
  - Consider having healthcare staff perform regular rounds to answer questions about COVID-19.
  - Ensure that information is provided in a manner that can be understood by non-English speaking individuals and those with low literacy, and make necessary accommodations for those with cognitive or intellectual disabilities and those who are deaf, blind, or low-vision.
- Implement daily temperature checks in housing units where COVID-19 cases have been identified, especially if there is concern that incarcerated/detained individuals are not notifying staff of symptoms. See [Screening](#) section for a procedure to safely perform a temperature check.
- Consider additional options to intensify [social distancing](#) within the facility.

## Management Strategies for Staff

- Provide clear information to staff about the presence of COVID-19 cases within the facility, and the need to enforce social distancing and encourage hygiene precautions.
  - Consider having healthcare staff perform regular rounds to answer questions about COVID-19 from staff.
- Staff identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 case should self-quarantine at home for 14 days and may return to work if symptoms do not develop.
  - See [above](#) for definition of a close contact.
  - Refer to [CDC guidelines](#) for further recommendations regarding home quarantine for staff.

## Infection Control

Infection control guidance below is applicable to all types of correctional facilities. Individual facilities should assess their unique needs based on the types of exposure staff and incarcerated/detained persons may have with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases.

- All individuals who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to COVID-19 cases or infectious materials (including body substances; contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air) should follow infection control practices outlined in the [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#). Monitor these guidelines regularly for updates.
  - Implement the above guidance as fully as possible within the correctional/detention context. Some of the specific language may not apply directly to healthcare settings within correctional facilities and detention centers, or to facilities without onsite healthcare capacity, and may need to be adapted to reflect facility operations and custody needs.
  - Note that these recommendations apply to staff as well as to incarcerated/detained individuals who may come in contact with contaminated materials during the course of their work placement in the facility (e.g., cleaning).
- Staff should exercise caution when in contact with individuals showing symptoms of a respiratory infection. Contact should be minimized to the extent possible until the infected individual is wearing a face mask. If COVID-19 is suspected, staff should wear recommended PPE (see [PPE](#) section).
- Refer to [PPE](#) section to determine recommended PPE for individuals persons in contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases, contacts, and potentially contaminated items.

## Clinical Care of COVID-19 Cases

- Facilities should ensure that incarcerated/detained individuals receive medical evaluation and treatment at the first signs of COVID-19 symptoms.
  - If a facility is not able to provide such evaluation and treatment, a plan should be in place to safely transfer the individual to another facility or local hospital.
  - The initial medical evaluation should determine whether a symptomatic individual is at [higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#). Persons at higher risk may include older adults and persons of any age with serious underlying medical conditions such as lung disease, heart disease, and diabetes. See [CDC's website](#) for a complete list, and check regularly for updates as more data become available to inform this issue.
- Staff evaluating and providing care for confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases should follow the [CDC Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) and monitor the guidance website regularly for updates to these recommendations.
- Healthcare staff should evaluate persons with respiratory symptoms or contact with a COVID-19 case in a separate room, with the door closed if possible, while wearing [recommended PPE](#) and ensuring that the suspected case is wearing a face mask.
  - If possible, designate a room near each housing unit to evaluate individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, rather than having them walk through the facility to be evaluated in the medical unit.
- Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness (e.g., influenza).
- The facility should have a plan in place to safely transfer persons with severe illness from COVID-19 to a local hospital if they require care beyond what the facility is able to provide.
- When evaluating and treating persons with symptoms of COVID-19 who do not speak English, using a language line or provide a trained interpreter when possible.

## Recommended PPE and PPE Training for Staff and Incarcerated/Detained Persons

- Ensure that all staff (healthcare and non-healthcare) and incarcerated/detained persons who will have contact with infectious materials in their work placements have been trained to correctly don, doff, and dispose of PPE relevant to the level of contact they will have with confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases.
  - Ensure that staff and incarcerated/detained persons who require respiratory protection (e.g., N95s) for their work responsibilities have been medically cleared, trained, and fit-tested in the context of an employer's [respiratory protection program](#).
  - For PPE training materials and posters, please visit the [CDC website on Protecting Healthcare Personnel](#)

**FOR TRAINING MATERIALS AND POSTERS, PLEASE VISIT THE [CDC WEBSITE ON PREVENTING MEDICAL FACILITY OUTBREAKS](#).**

- Ensure that all staff are trained to perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.
- If administrators anticipate that incarcerated/detained persons will request unnecessary PPE, consider providing training on the different types of PPE that are needed for differing degrees of contact with COVID-19 cases and contacts, and the reasons for those differences (see [Table 1](#)). Monitor linked CDC guidelines in Table 1 for updates to recommended PPE.
- Keep recommended PPE near the spaces in the facility where it could be needed, to facilitate quick access in an emergency.
- Recommended PPE for incarcerated/detained individuals and staff in a correctional facility will vary based on the type of contact they have with COVID-19 cases and their contacts (see [Table 1](#)). Each type of recommended PPE is defined below. As above, note that PPE shortages are anticipated in every category during the COVID-19 response.
  - **N95 respirator**  
See below for guidance on when face masks are acceptable alternatives for N95s. N95 respirators should be prioritized when staff anticipate contact with infectious aerosols from a COVID-19 case.
  - **Face mask**
  - **Eye protection** – goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face
  - **A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves**  
Gloves should be changed if they become torn or heavily contaminated.
  - **Disposable medical isolation gown or single-use/disposable coveralls, when feasible**
    - If custody staff are unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls because it limits access to their duty belt and gear, ensure that duty belt and gear are disinfected after close contact with the individual. Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
    - If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of staff.
- Note that shortages of all PPE categories are anticipated during the COVID-19 response, particularly for non-healthcare workers. Guidance for optimizing the supply of each category can be found on CDC's website:
  - [Guidance in the event of a shortage of N95 respirators](#)
    - Based on local and regional situational analysis of PPE supplies, **face masks are an acceptable alternative when the supply chain of respirators cannot meet the demand**. During this time, available respirators should be prioritized for staff engaging in activities that would expose them to respiratory aerosols, which pose the highest exposure risk.
  - [Guidance in the event of a shortage of face masks](#)
  - [Guidance in the event of a shortage of eye protection](#)
  - [Guidance in the event of a shortage of gowns/coveralls](#)

Classification of Individual Wearing PPE	N95 respirator	Face mask	Eye Protection	Gloves	Gown/Coveralls
<b>Incarcerated/Detained Persons</b>					
Asymptomatic incarcerated/detained persons (under quarantine as close contacts of a COVID-19 case*)	Apply face masks for source control as feasible based on local supply, especially if housed as a cohort				
Incarcerated/detained persons who are confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases, or showing symptoms of COVID-19		X			
Incarcerated/detained persons in a work placement handling laundry or used food service items from a COVID-19 case or case contact				X	X
Incarcerated/detained persons in a work placement cleaning areas where a COVID-19 case has spent time	Additional PPE may be needed based on the product label. See <a href="#">CDC guidelines</a> for more details.			X	X

Classification of Individual Wearing PPE	N95 respirator	Face mask	Eye Protection	Gloves	Gown/Coveralls
<b>Staff</b>					
Staff having direct contact with asymptomatic incarcerated/detained persons under quarantine as close contacts of a COVID-19 case* (but not performing temperature checks or providing medical care)			Face mask, eye protection, and gloves as local supply and scope of duties allow.		
Staff performing temperature checks on any group of people (staff, visitors, or incarcerated/detained persons), or providing medical care to asymptomatic quarantined persons		X	X	X	X
Staff having direct contact with (including transport) or offering medical care to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases (see <a href="#">CDC infection control guidelines</a> )	X**		X	X	X
Staff present during a procedure on a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case that may generate respiratory aerosols (see <a href="#">CDC infection control guidelines</a> )	X		X	X	X
Staff handling laundry or used food service items from a COVID-19 case or case contact				X	X
Staff cleaning an area where a COVID-19 case has spent time	Additional PPE may be needed based on the product label. See <a href="#">CDC guidelines</a> for more details.			X	X

#### Classification of Individual Wearing PPE

\* If a facility chooses to routinely quarantine all new intakes (without symptoms or known exposure to a COVID-19 case) before integrating into the facility's general population, face masks are not necessary.

\*\* A NIOSH-approved N95 is preferred. However, based on local and regional situational analysis of PPE supplies, face masks are an acceptable alternative when the supply chain of respirators cannot meet the demand. During this time, available respirators should be prioritized for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols, which would pose the highest exposure risk to staff.

## Verbal Screening and Temperature Check Protocols for Incarcerated/Detained Persons, Staff, and Visitors

The guidance above recommends verbal screening and temperature checks for incarcerated/detained persons, staff, volunteers, and visitors who enter correctional and detention facilities, as well as incarcerated/detained persons who are transferred to another facility or released from custody. Below, verbal screening questions for COVID-19 symptoms and contact with known cases, and a safe temperature check procedure are detailed.

- Verbal screening for symptoms of COVID-19 and contact with COVID-19 cases should include the following questions:
  - Today or in the past 24 hours, have you had any of the following symptoms?
    - Fever, felt feverish, or had chills?
    - Cough?
    - Difficulty breathing?
  - In the past 14 days, have you had contact with a person known to be infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?
- The following is a protocol to safely check an individual's temperature:
  - Perform hand hygiene

- Put on a face mask, eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face), gown/coveralls, and a single pair of disposable gloves
- Check individual's temperature
- **If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, ensure that a clean pair of gloves is used for each individual and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check.** If disposable or non-contact thermometers are used and the screener did not have physical contact with an individual, gloves do not need to be changed before the next check. If non-contact thermometers are used, they should be [cleaned routinely as recommended by CDC for infection control](#).
- Remove and discard PPE
- Perform hand hygiene

Page last reviewed: May 7, 2020