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Sent: March 19, 2020 11:03 AM
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Subject: RE: Covid 19 policies for policing justice and corrections
Attachments: SAC - CSC's Preventive Measures for COVID-19 2020-03-19.docx

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the question & forwarding the UK document. Please see the attachment for actions that CSC is taking to meet the challenges of the pandemic. CSC is continually reassessing and adjusting our processes to address new information to prevent a COVID outbreak or effectively manage outbreak should that occur. A member of the CSC team is joining the daily CCMOH teleconference to be consistent with guidance from the Secretariat.

Kind regards, Jim

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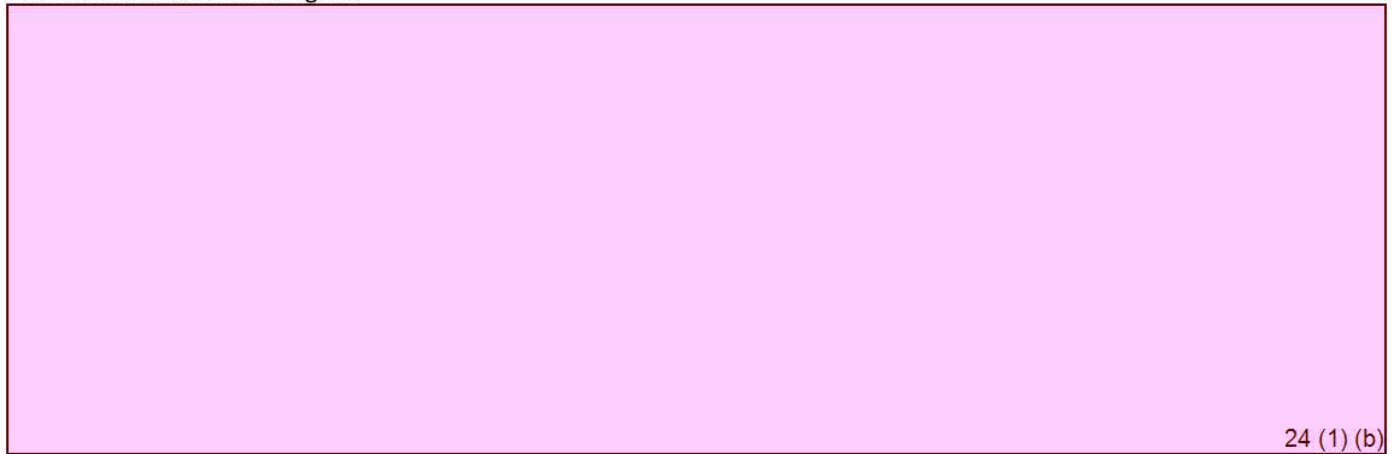
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Subject: Covid 19 policies for policing justice and corrections

Dear James and FPT colleagues



Thank you
Saqib

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SAC – CSC's Preventive Measures for COVID-19

Unprecedented steps are being taken by all parts of society, including the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), to address the particular concerns raised by COVID-19. CSC continues to follow public health guidance and make decisions to protect your health and safety.

While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our institutions, we continue to actively monitor, plan and engage with authorities on precautions we can take to minimize risks associated with the virus. At the national level, Health Services NHQ work closely with Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health (CCMOH) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). At the institutional level sites have secured a contact at their local public health unit, established a process for testing for COVID-19, and designated isolation cells for housing inmates with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. At the Regional level, Managers/Lead Physicians have established arrangements with local hospitals in the event that hospital level assessment and/or admission is required.

The following measures are being taken at CSC to prevent the introduction or spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities:

To protect our staff and offenders, we have **suspended**:

- visits from the public and volunteers
- all temporary absences from institutions, unless medically necessary
- work releases for offenders

The Parole Board has also cancelled observer and victim attendance at hearings. Employees are actively screening anyone that must enter institutions. This will be reassessed on an ongoing basis as this situation evolves.

Screening and testing

In order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 entering CSC institutions all new admissions and returns to custody must undergo a two part screening process. Upon entry, inmates are immediately screened by operational staff to determine if they meet the definition for person under investigation for COVID-19. The screening criteria is based upon guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada, and takes into account:

- symptoms (cough, fever, difficulty breathing)
- travel history
- close contact with someone who has been tested for COVID-19
- close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled outside Canada

If an inmate meets the criteria for person under investigation they will be given a surgical mask, placed in a location away from other inmates and staff and they will be screened by health services staff.

If an inmate is identified as having met the case definition in health services, a nurse will:

- Perform further assessment for acute respiratory illness;
- Provide immediate clinical interventions as required based on clinical discretion; and

- Contact local public health.

In order to confirm COVID-19, patients will require a nasopharyngeal or throat swab. Depending on the jurisdiction the sample may be sent to a regional/provincial laboratory or to the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg for initial analysis and will be confirmed at the NML. If a swab is returned positive for COVID-19 or if the patient is otherwise determined to meet the COVID-19 case definition, then a case report form must be completed and submitted via local public health to PHAC.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Healthcare staff have been instructed to adhere to the PPE recommendations for COVID-19. Sites must implement droplet and contact precautions when within 2 metres of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 for effective infection prevention and control (IPAC) of COVID-19.

CSC has been following the Logistics Advisory Committee's guidance to determine PPE requirements at each institution and regional staff have diligently worked to count their current stores of PPE. This allowed for accurate procurement of the necessary PPE for a potential 14 day institutional lockdown.

Cleaning

Sites have been reminded through a memo that daily cleaning of healthcare facilities and all high touch surfaces with an approved hospital grade product is part of appropriate cleaning. Further, disinfecting between patients in healthcare facilities is required.

CSC is using disposable food trays instead of reusable trays for any inmate who is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case. Appropriate hospital grade disinfectant is being provided to self-isolated patients for cleaning of their cell, especially high touch areas.

Health Promotion

Active communication strategies have been implemented for inmates. This includes small group information sessions for inmates on the prevention of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases, posters with information about COVID-19 and clear instructions to report to healthcare if they develop symptoms. Other health promotion materials such as fact sheets, posters and videos on hand hygiene and the Flu are also available. Signage has also been posted in the community corrections centers. Offenders in the community are expected to follow local public health recommendations and advice consistent with their local situation.

Inmates are encouraged to get a flu shot if they have not already done so. Importantly, inmates over 65 or those with chronic diseases or immunocompromising conditions are specifically encouraged to get the flu shot and the pneumococcal vaccination.

Social Distancing

Inmates are encouraged to maintain social distancing of 2m from other inmates and staff as much as possible, including during yard time. We are reducing the number of medications that require directly observed therapy to reduce the number of inmates that must come to Health Services on a daily basis. A distance of 2m will be established between the designated waiting spots for each inmate during the observation period required for inmates on Opioid Agonist Therapy. We also are exploring options for cohorting inmates with confirmed COVID-19 inmates in the event of an outbreak.

Staff

Although employees are expected to come to work, managers are encouraged to be as flexible as possible around telework and alternative work arrangements in line with their operational requirements and circumstances. In addition, we will be postponing all training for now with the exception of firearms training to site-specific participants. Employees are encouraged to continue to complete required online training. Institutional staff are being instructed to stay home if they have a cough or fever, if they've traveled outside of Canada in the past 14 days, or if they have had close contact with a known or suspected COVID-19 case. Direction is being provided to staff who are a caregiver or a household contact for a person who is self-isolating due to COVID-19. CSC staff are being kept up to date on COVID-19 through regular Gen-Comms and updates from the Commissioner.

We have also suspended all non-essential travel and encouraged the use of videoconference or teleconference, where possible.