

**Emma Small**

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N/R

**From:** AHS ECC Liaison <[AHS.ECC.Liaison@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:AHS.ECC.Liaison@albertahealthservices.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 7:02 PM  
**To:** AHW EOC - 20(1)(m); 25 (1) (b)  
**Cc:** Brenda Huband <[Brenda.Huband@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Brenda.Huband@albertahealthservices.ca)>; Nancy Guebert <[Nancy.Guebert@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Nancy.Guebert@albertahealthservices.ca)>; Jana Ambrogiano <[Jana.Ambrogiano@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Jana.Ambrogiano@albertahealthservices.ca)>; Judith Hockney <[Judith.Hockney@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Judith.Hockney@albertahealthservices.ca)>; Tina Maslyk <[tina.maslyk@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tina.maslyk@gov.ab.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Update on COVID-19 Planning and Activities in Corrections  
**Importance:** High

Good evening

I wanted to share with you as an FYI, an update on the steps being taken regarding COVID-19 within Correctional Health Services, in collaboration with Correctional Services Division.  
Please do let us know if there are any questions. Cheryl

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**From:** Janet Chafe  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** AHS ECC <[AHS.ECC@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:AHS.ECC@albertahealthservices.ca)>  
**Subject:** Update on COVID-19 Planning and Activities in Corrections  
**Importance:** High

Please find attached an update on the steps being taken regarding COVID-19 within Correctional Health Services, in collaboration with Correctional Services Division. Within both organizations we are working hard as a system to implement steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to inmates and staff, while at the same time continuing to support our patients with the care they need where this is required.

Please feel free to send the attached to the ZEOCs if this would be helpful. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please ask them to reach out to either:

Janet Chafe, Executive Director, Correctional Health Services (numbers below) or  
Dr. Keith Courtney, Facilities Medical Director (587-894-6558)

Thanks,

Janet

Janet Chafe  
Executive Director  
Addiction & Mental Health, Calgary Zone  
Correctional Health Services, Provincial  
Office: 403-943-0087  
Cell: 403-618-7174

Admin Assistant  
Myrna Doell  
[myrna.doell@ahs.ca](mailto:myrna.doell@ahs.ca)  
403-943-1742

**Visit AHS' COVID-19 page for the latest updates and accurate information**  
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx>\*

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# COVID 19 Update – March 19, 2020

## AHS Correctional Health Services

- AHS has a plan in place to minimize the risk presented by coronavirus, to either inmates or staff.
- This plan is similar to how we would respond to a confirmed case in the general public.
- Droplet Contact Isolation procedures (procedure mask, gown, gloves and eye protection) <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/main/assets/tms/ipc/tms-ipc-corr-droplet-contact-info.pdf> are in place, and AHS will continue to take the lead of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure a robust, consistent response.
- AHS is in close contact with Medical Directors of Correctional Health Services in other provinces, as well as Corrections Canada, regarding approaches to manage COVID-19 should it appear in correctional facilities.

### Current Actions:

- Outbreak plans have been reviewed, shared, and in place for all centers with JSG and AHS
- Regular reporting and communication occurring within AHS and with JSG partners
- PPE supplies and resources have been assessed and are available
- Signage and education and other forms of information have been made available, posted, and shared with staff and patients
- Daily health service provincial debriefings are occurring
- Daily tracking and reporting of COVID 19 related cases.
- Specifically:

### Patients:

- COVID 19 Screening occurs for ALL admissions/transfers to all centers using script supported by IP&C and MOH. In centers with non 24 hour health service, correctional officers are completing the screening using script supported by IP&C and MOH.
- Regular education re COVID 19 including handwashing, coughing, and other prevention is occurring along with signage in all A&D areas, Living unit areas and Health areas
- Regular education and open question check-ins and discussions to all units and patients is occurring at all centers
- COVID 19 screening prior to community ETA outings (medical escorts)
- COVID 19 community based education upon discharge via pamphlet handout and staff education where possible
- COVID 19 poster reminder to notify staff if patient has symptoms prior to transfer or discharge.
- Mental Health supports and service plans are being developed

### AHS Staff

- AHS screening tools and communications are available and regularly reviewed
- Regular education and communication re COVID 19 updates and clinical tools
- HR/LR support is available
- Health groups and programs have been shifted to 1:1 or small group settings with appropriate social distancing.

**JSG Partners**

- Institutional visits have been temporarily suspended
- Transfers still taking place, will be halted in accordance with Outbreak Manual Guidelines if isolation is occurring
- Intermittent sentence program temporarily suspended
- Congregate activities and programs have been decreased or cancelled however, activities to maintain limited social interaction and programs to limit boredom and anxieties are occurring at this time
- Education and resources are available and have been shared re COVID 19, prevention measures and other identified needs
- Education and reminders re isolation measures and PPE have been shared and reviewed
- Daily updates and briefings between AHS and JSG re center status in place
- JSG staff procedures for symptoms and reporting have been communicated and managed through Correctional Services Division
- Cleaning procedures have been reviewed and confirmed

**External and other community/AHS Partners**

- Jury trials have been suspended, video court is occurring as possible to reduce transfers in and out of the centers.
- Regular communication and info sharing is occurring as required and as need arises such as:
  - Courts
  - Forensics
  - Sheriffs
  - AHS partners and community medical providers
  - Shelter and housing partners
  - others

