

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA



CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

HEALTH SERVICES PRACTICE REMINDER

April 28, 2020

Discharge Planning – COVID-19

CSC's well established release planning policies and procedures were developed to ensure that an offender's health, including their physical and mental health needs, cognitive impairments and/or chronic conditions are taken into consideration in advance of their release to the community. Incorporation of health discharge planning is an important element of the release planning process and a key factor in the reintegration of offenders into the community.

As part of CSC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional measures are being incorporated into the existing Health Services discharge planning process to prevent and contain the spread of the virus.

Based on consultation with local provincial and territorial public health authorities, CSC Regional Managers, Public Health and Chiefs, Health Services have identified the measures that must be in place for each jurisdiction to support discharge planning that prevents and reduce the spread of the virus.

In addition to these measures, on a case by case basis, Regional Managers, Public Health and Chiefs, Health Services will advise and consult with the local provincial and territorial public health authorities on appropriate measures for release into the community when discharge planning for a person who:

- has symptoms of COVID-19
- has tested positive for COVID-19
- is being released from a site that has had known cases of COVID 19 (staff or inmate)

Additionally, screening for COVID-19 symptoms, including a temperature check, will be incorporated into all release/discharge planning using the inmate active screening form.

An interdisciplinary approach to discharge, including collaboration and coordination to address all aspects of an offender's release is fundamental to successful reintegration. Continued collaboration is particularly important in these challenging times to ensure timely sharing of health information and coordination of post-release services and supports. In addition to aforementioned measures, the *Health Status at Discharge: GIST Report* and pre-release case conference(s) serve as key information sharing tools for health and case management staff on health information related to release, particularly in cases involving direct medical and public health intervention.

