

If you wish to request a review, please provide the Office of the Commissioner with the following information:

1. The reference number quoted at the top of this notice.
2. A copy of this letter.
3. A copy of your original request for information that you sent to the Department of Justice.
4. The reason why you are requesting a review.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me by phone: 867-975-6157 or email: nsalguero@gov.nu.ca.

Sincerely,



Natalie Salguero
ATIPP Coordinator

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BRIEFING NOTE**

TITLE: Corrections Response to COVID-19

ISSUE: COVID-19

RECOMMENDED SPEAKING POINTS:

- **As the ongoing situation with Covid-19 progresses, our government is taking serious steps to keep Covid-19 from entering our territory.**
- **The Corrections Division is committed to the health and safety of inmates and staff at our facilities. We continue to consult with the Chief Medical Officer of Health about measures that will assist us in securing our facilities during the current health crisis.**

CURRENT STATUS:

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Corrections leadership team has implemented proactive health and safety measures and practices to ensure our employees and clients remain safe.

With the Departments of Education and Community and Government Services (CGS), the Corrections division has developed contingency plans based on various scenarios.

See appendix A for details of the plans. Note these plans are constantly evolving and may be subject to change based on number of inmates infected and inmate behavioural level.

We are currently in scenario 1, which means that there is no community transmission of Covid-19 in Nunavut and no cases of Covid-19 in our correctional facilities.

In the event that Covid-19 enters correctional facilities, alternate facility space at 20 (1)(k) and 20 (1)(k) in Iqaluit may be used.

Corrections re-opened its offices to the public on August 10, 2020. All clients attending Corrections offices are asked Covid-19 screening questions upon arrival, and physical distancing practices are in place.

BACKGROUND:

On March 18, 2020, the Minister of Health declared a state of public health emergency for Nunavut in response to the Covid-19.

The Corrections division continues to face issues with staffing levels and overcrowding in correctional facilities. To mitigate risks during the Covid-19 pandemic, Corrections is developing contingency plans.

APPENDIX A – Contingency Plans

Scenario 1 – No community transmission and no confirmed cases of Covid-19 among inmates or corrections staff

Considerations:

- Maintain status quo.
- Biggest risk factor is with staff inadvertently bringing the virus into Corrections facilities.
- Inmate visitation is cancelled.
- Additional cleaning implemented.
- Personal protective equipment procurement.
- Staff screened daily prior to entry into facilities.
- Intakes are isolated for a 14-day period upon entering the facilities.

Scenario 2 – Community transmission in a community with correctional facilities, but no confirmed cases among inmates or corrections staff.

Considerations:

- Take active steps to mitigate the transmission of the virus by staff.
- If an outbreak occurs in a community with a correctional facility, such as Iqaluit, Kugluktuk or Rankin Inlet, there is a high chance of Covid-19 entering the facilities.
- Begin preparations for moderate outbreak within correctional facilities.
- This scenario is high risk in that staff may unknowingly introduce Covid-19 into the facilities.
- As the inmate population is vulnerable and may have pre-existing medical conditions, this scenario brings with it a risk of riots, reduction in staffing resources, an increased demand for medical treatment and death.

Scenario 3 - Moderate outbreak of Covid-19 in correctional facilities (up to 20 inmates)

Considerations:

- Moderate outbreak of the virus exists.
- Corrections will split the Young Offenders facility into two parts: one section for young offenders, and one section as isolation for new intakes or less severely infected inmates.
- This option assumes any infected inmates requiring more intensive medical care will be sent to appropriate medical facilities.

- Alternate facilities are not required.
- Within Iqaluit, existing Corrections facilities are expected to be able to manage up to a maximum of 20 infected inmates, assuming only self-treatment or mild medical inpatient treatment is required.

Scenario 4 - Significant outbreak of Covid-19 in correctional facilities (more than 20 inmates).

Low Risk Behavioural Inmates:

- Move low risk behavioural clients from Makigiarvik to an alternate facility (i.e. 20 (1)(k))
- Only non-infected inmates would be housed within this alternative facility. This will not be used for infected or potentially infected inmates.
- Half of Makigiarvik will become available for observation (intake) and to house infected inmates.
- Infected inmates requiring intensive medical care will be sent to appropriate medical facilities.

High Risk Behavioural Inmates:

- High risk behavioural inmates will require a secure location. Corrections has secured a 20 (1)(k) to house infected inmates in 20 (1)(k)
- These cells can house a maximum of 38 inmates.
- High risk behavioural inmates infected with Covid-19 will be housed in the 20 (1)(k) Uninfected inmates will remain at BCC.
- Infected inmates requiring intensive medical care will be sent to appropriate medical facilities.
- This option will serve as a last case scenario for high risk behavioural inmates.

Scenario 5 – Death due to Covid-19 in custody.

- All aspects of this plan remain the same as scenario 4.
- If a death occurs, staff will be required to secure the area.
- If the coroner is unable to attend the scene, the RCMP will attend.
- Supplies will be provided, including personal protective equipment.