

COVID 19 Update – March 27, 2020

AHS Correctional Health Services

- For the latest COVID 19 information visit ahs.ca/covid
- 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.
- AHS recently released a Quick Reference Guide for Outbreak Management in Congregate Living Sites <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-outbreak-congregate-quick-reference.pdf>
- Additionally, a Guide for Management of Coronavirus COVID19 in Correctional and Remand Centers has been released in partnership between AHS and JSG to provide direction specific to Correctional and Remand populations and sites.

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.
- Daily screening and education for every incarcerated patient is occurring.
- Screening and preparation for discharge planning for all releases and community escorts is occurring including COVID 19 community based education upon discharge via pamphlet handout and in person staff education where possible.
- Contact with Community Vulnerable Population centers has been initiated for assistance with community transition as required.
- Regular education and open question check-ins and discussions to all units and patients is occurring at all centers.
- Mental Health supports and service plans are in place.

AHS Staff

- AHS screening tools and communications are available and regularly reviewed.
- Regular education and communication re COVID 19 updates and clinical tools is occurring.
- Health groups and programs have been shifted to 1:1 or small group settings with appropriate social distancing.
- HR and LR support is available.
- Staff screening to be implemented.
- Daily center specific updates are being communicated broadly.

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.
- Regular education and reminders re isolation measures and PPE occurs.
- 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.
- Staff screening to be implemented.

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/Vulnerable populations.
 - others

