



**U. S. Department of Justice**

**Federal Bureau of Prisons**

**Reentry Services Division**

*Washington, D.C 20534*

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May 12, 2020

TO: ALL RRC CONTRACT PROVIDERS

  
FROM: JON GUSTIN, ADMINISTRATOR  
RESIDENTIAL REENTRY MANAGEMENT BRANCH

**SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resumption of Normal Residential Reentry Center Operations**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the President and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have issued "Guidelines for Opening up America Again" which provides guidance and instructions for state and local governmental leaders to use in making determinations regarding the resumption of "normal" activities and operations. These steps were designed to help state and local officials when opening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives.

Accordingly, the Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) is providing the following guidance with the goal of gradual resumption normal Residential Reentry Center (RRC) and Home Confinement (HC) operations:

- Contract providers should continue to monitor their state and local guidance regarding the resumption of normal operations and follow local guidance where applicable when making determinations as to resuming RRC programming and activities to include resumption of passes, work activities and other approved programming.
- Contract providers may need to tailor the application of guidance based upon local circumstances, staffing concerns, and individual population concerns. Deviations from this guidance require consultation with your local Residential Reentry Management Offices and the Residential Reentry Management Branch regarding resumption of operations in accordance with local guidelines.

In accordance with the White House and CDC phased-in approach to resumption of normal operations, the following general guidelines will apply. (Note that timing and duration of each phase is in accordance with local/state guidelines):

PHASE ONE:

- All vulnerable inmates (as defined by CDC guidance) should continue to shelter in place, either inside the RRC or on HC; with the exception that limited movement is permitted for essential workers.
- Social distancing should continue to be practiced to include the wearing of PPE; approved variances regarding Staff Site Checks, Case Management, Breathalyzer/drug testing, group programming and required check-in at the facility, are still approved.
- Subsistence waiver is still approved and appropriate for all residents of RRCs.
- As businesses re-open, inmates may be allowed to return to previous employment.
- Inmates working at essential jobs/businesses should be placed on HC if possible.
- Job seeking or other absences outside the facility are not allowed.

PHASE TWO:

- All vulnerable inmates should continue to shelter in place, either inside the RRC or on HC; with the exception that limited movement for is permitted for essential workers.
- Social distancing should continue to be practiced to include the wearing of PPE; approved variances regarding Staff Site Checks, Case Management, Breathalyzer/drug testing, group programming and required check-in at the facility, are still approved.
- Resume Mental Health, group therapy, and other ancillary services in accordance with available services/contracts with the Bureau's Community Treatment Services.
- Subsistence waiver is still approved and appropriate for all residents of RRCs.
- As businesses continue to re-open, inmates may be allowed to return to previous employment.
- Limited passes may be approved for employment seeking/attainment, religious, or social purposes that follow social distancing and local protocols.

PHASE THREE:

- Vulnerable inmates can resume public interactions; should continue to practice social distancing, minimize exposure to social settings where distancing is not practicable, observe all precautionary measures, and wear appropriate PPE.
- Resume Mental Health, group therapy, and other ancillary services in accordance with available services/contracts with the Bureau's Community Treatment Services.
- Variances regarding Staff Site Checks, Case Management, Breathalyzer/drug testing, group programming and required check-in at the facility for inmates on HC are further modified to require a minimum of one physical visit per month to HC location, one in-person Case Management meeting monthly; group programming should resume allowing for social distancing and wearing of appropriate PPE (Mask) during groups; and minimum of one check-in at the facility monthly where a breathalyzer and urinalysis test will be conducted.
- Subsistence waiver is still approved and appropriate for all residents of RRCs.
- As businesses continue to re-open, inmates may be allowed to return to previous employment.
- Passes may be approved for employment seeking/attainment, religious, or social purposes that follow social distancing and local protocols.

RESUMPTION OF NORMAL OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONTRACTUAL SPECIFICATIONS:

- It is the expectation that after 90 days in phase three all RRC/HC operations will resume in accordance with the established contract requirements.
- Variances/modification to contractual requirements may be requested through the Contracting Officer.

Information regarding the Bureau's response to COVID-19 may be found on the Bureau's public website, [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov). The Bureau appreciates your hard work and continued partnership and will continue to update this guidance as the situation continues to develop.

The Bureau understands individual circumstances may arise outside of the general guidance and recommendations. Questions should be directed to your designated Residential Reentry Manager, Contracting Officer or the Residential Reentry Management Branch. They will collaborate with individual RRCs to develop suggestions for local accommodations.