

Health Services Release Guidance during COVID-19

April 17, 2020

Universal Guidance for all Community Transfers and Releases

- 14-day quarantine
 - Inmates releasing or transferring from Bureau facilities to the community will have been placed in quarantine or have “sheltered in place” for 14 days prior to their release/transfer. In institutions where there are active cases of COVID, releasing inmates should be placed in quarantine for the 14 days prior to release; ideally, they will be housed individually or cohorted separately from other quarantine groups. In institutions where there are no active COVID cases, releasing inmates may “shelter in place” for the 14 days prior to release.
 - Inmates pending release or transfer to the above noted situations should have a temperature check and symptom screening daily assuming no known or suspected COVID exposure for the 14-days prior to release or transfer and have a screening and temperature check noted in the release paperwork on the day of release from the facility. Facilities should assure that the date of quarantine or “shelter in place” covers a 14-day period immediately prior to inmate release.

Home Confinement (HC) Transfers

- Verification by Health Services (HS) staff that an inmate’s reentry plan would provide lower risk of contracting COVID-19 than the Bureau facility
 - Due to the risk for COVID-19 nation-wide, the primary focus on an inmate’s medical condition(s) and CDC identified risk factors for severe infection (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/underlying-conditions.html>) should be emphasized. Other considerations include whether the inmate is releasing to a congregate setting, particularly in an area or facility with known widespread transmission. When possible, consider and document a discussion of release conditions, risk and precautions with the inmate.
 - May refer to Residential Reentry Management Branch (RRMB) Health Systems (HS) Specialists as indicated
- HS staff will screen inmates to determine if frequent and on-going medical care is required within the next 90 days. If required then:
 - HS staff/ Social Work will coordinate with RRMB HS Specialists (not Naphcare directly) to determine if inmates’ medical needs can be met in the community. Contacts listed below:
 - (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
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 - 90 days of medications will be provided to the inmate upon transfer. Release of controlled substances will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
 - If an inmate’s medical needs cannot be met in the community, then the inmate will remain at the Bureau facility.
- HS staff will evaluate inmates for unique travel requirements (i.e., air/ground ambulance, medical staff escort, COVID-19, etc.) upon referral from Unit Team.
- HS staff will medically screen inmates within 12 hours of their transfer.
 - Documentation of a negative COVID-19 symptom screen, temperature check, and whether the inmate was placed in isolation will be recorded in the Comments section of the Exit Summary. Temperature will also be recorded in the flow sheet.

Health Services Release Guidance during COVID-19

April 17, 2020

- A copy of the inmate's Exit Summary will be sent with the inmate.
- HS staff will notify Unit Team if the inmate is symptomatic for COVID-19 and his/her HC transfer date needs to be reevaluated.

Residential Reentry Center (RRC) Transfers

- HS staff will continue to evaluate inmates referred by Unit Team for RRC/MINT/RPP as requested and will follow existing guidance on medical appropriateness for transfer.
- HS staff will medically screen inmates within 12 hours of their transfer.
 - Documentation of a negative COVID-19 symptom screen, temperature check, and whether the inmate was placed in isolation will be recorded in the Comments section of the Exit Summary. Temperature will also be recorded in the flow sheet.
 - A copy of the inmate's Exit Summary will be sent with the inmate.
 - HS will notify Unit Team if the inmate is symptomatic for COVID-19 and his/her RRC transfer date needs to be reevaluated.
- 90 days of medications will be provided to the inmate upon transfer. Release of controlled substances will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Full Term (FT), Good Conduct Time (GCT), Parole, Compassionate Release/Reduction in Sentence (RIS) and Immediate Releases

- HS staff will medically screen inmates within 12 hours of their release.
 - Documentation of a negative COVID-19 symptom screen, temperature check, and whether the inmate was placed in isolation will be recorded in the Comments section of the Exit Summary. Temperature will also be recorded in the flow sheet.
 - A copy of the inmate's Exit Summary will be sent with the inmate.
 - HS will notify Unit Team if the inmate is symptomatic for COVID-19.
 - If the inmate is symptomatic for COVID-19, HS staff will notify the Public Health Authority in the inmate's release area of the inmate's imminent arrival. Travel arrangements will be made in coordination with Unit Team to minimize risk of public exposure.
 - HS staff can visit the following website for a directory of all local state/county Public Health Authorities (<https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory>).
- 90 days of medications will be provided to the inmate upon transfer.
- Access to specialized medical care in the community is limited during this pandemic and may not be readily available. When complex Care Level 3 or 4 inmates have upcoming releases (i.e., inmates at outside hospital or in need of long-term care, dialysis, etc.), coordinate these cases with your institution Social Worker or Regional Social Worker.

Releases to Detaining Authorities

- HS staff will medically screen inmates within 12 hours of their release.
 - Documentation of a negative COVID-19 symptom screen, temperature check, and whether the inmate was placed in isolation will be recorded in the Comments section of the Exit Summary. Temperature will also be recorded in the flow sheet.
 - A copy of the inmate's Exit Summary will be sent with the inmate.
 - HS will notify Unit Team and Correctional Systems staff if the inmate is symptomatic for COVID-19.

Health Services Release Guidance during COVID-19

April 17, 2020

- Correctional Systems staff commonly coordinates communication with detaining agencies. HS staff will coordinate with Correctional Systems to communicate this information to the detaining agency.
- 7 days of medications will be provided to the inmate upon transfer.