

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR INMATES

WHO ARE TRANSFERRING OR RELEASING FROM A BOP FACILITY

Advance planning is required when transferring inmates to other locations/correctional jurisdictions or releasing inmates from BOP custody. Collaboration and coordination between departments, institutions, regions, etc... – especially case management, custody, and health services – is necessary to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission during this type of inmate movement. Coordination with other agencies and local or state health authorities may also be necessary. Each institution needs to work with their regional counterparts to develop the most effective and efficient strategy for accomplishing this part of the Bureau's mission at their location.

- ➔ Whenever possible, specific inmates who will be transferring or releasing from BOP custody need to be identified at least 21 days prior to their movement date. Longer commercial lab turnaround times may require even more planning in advance of transfer or release dates.
- ➔ An inmate who is currently in or meets the criteria for COVID-19 medical isolation should not be transferred or released from BOP custody unless absolutely necessary (e.g. immediate release, completion of sentence).
- ➔ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate for each setting should be worn by staff in accordance with established procedures for isolation, quarantine, testing, and transport.
- ➔ Direct travel to the receiving facility or location without mixing with other inmate populations should be accomplished whenever possible.

A roster of inmates who are in quarantine that includes cell assignment, date of placement in quarantine and projected end date of quarantine, date of placement in that specific cell along with cell mate or members of a cohort, and designated facility may be helpful in managing this type of quarantine.

All inmates who are transferring to another location/correctional jurisdiction or are releasing from BOP custody will be managed in one of the following three categories: 1) Inmates with no prior history of COVID-19, 2) Inmates previously diagnosed with COVID-19 who have since recovered and have met the current CDC release from isolation criteria, 3) Immediate releases. Consultation with the Regional Medical Director, Regional Health Services Administrator, and Regional Infection Prevention Consultant is recommended for management of inmates who are not in one of these three categories.

Inmates with no prior history of COVID-19

- These inmates should be placed in Release/Transfer Quarantine and housed separately from inmates in Exposure or Intake Quarantine.
- Symptom screening and temperature checks are performed on admission to and completion of / discharge from quarantine and are documented in BEMR.

- Discharge symptom screen and temperature check is usually performed on day 14 of quarantine. However, inmates need to remain in quarantine beyond that day pending test results and release or transfer. In such cases, a symptom screen and temperature check also needs to be performed and documented within 24 hours of release / transfer.
- Daily symptom screens and temperature checks are not required routinely but daily checks are required for inmates housed in SHU in accordance with BOP policy (*Program Statement 5270.11, Special Housing Units*).
- Testing for COVID-19 using a PCR test from a nasopharyngeal, mid-turbinate, or anterior nares swab is performed at the time of placement into quarantine and on or after 14 days of quarantine (test in / test out), in accordance with established testing procedures.
 - Either point-of-care testing (Abbott ID Now) or a commercial lab may be used for testing at the time of placement into quarantine.
 - Testing at the end of a 14-day quarantine should be sent to a commercial lab. The Abbott ID Now PCR test may be used for immediate releases and for transfers to other BOP facilities if commercial lab test result turnaround times are expected to be more than 7 days.
 - Testing at the end of quarantine may be performed on the 14th day of quarantine (not before) or any day thereafter, as long as quarantine conditions are maintained. In addition, from the time of testing at the end of quarantine to the time the negative test result is received and the inmate is released/transferred, they need to remain in quarantine conditions.
- If anyone tests positive, a contact tracing should be performed and the situation reviewed to determine if anyone else in the group has been exposed and whether movement may proceed as scheduled.
 - Individuals within the same cohort or those with suspected exposure to the positive case must have a symptom screen, temperature check, and COVID-19 PCR test and must restart their 14-day quarantine.
 - Exposed inmates who are symptomatic or test positive should be isolated promptly.
 - Exposed inmates who test negative and are asymptomatic should have symptom screens and temperature checks at least once daily (twice daily is preferred when feasible) and should be retested periodically during the new 14-day quarantine period, preferably every 3 to 4 days, but at least weekly.
 - The daily quarantine symptom screens and temperature checks can be performed by non-healthcare staff, trained to obtain temperature and asking yes or no symptom questions that are documented on unit rosters. Any positive findings are promptly reported to health services for assessment.

- The 14-day quarantine period must be restarted if there is exposure to a COVID-19 case while in quarantine or if new inmates are added to a multi-person quarantine cell or cohort.
 - Restarting a 14-day quarantine is not required when a quarantine cohort that has completed quarantine, tested negative and remained in quarantine is added to another quarantine cohort that has also completed quarantine, tested negative and remained in quarantine but has been relocated to a quarantine unit as an A-HLD awaiting transfer.
 - Movement is preferred within five days of receiving the negative COVID-19 test result, regardless of the mode of travel (by ground or air). When this five-day window for movement cannot be achieved or is not feasible, the time frame for movement may be expanded to occur within 14 days of receiving the negative COVID-19 test result as long as quarantine conditions are maintained for the entire time. Inmate movement that needs to occur more than 14 days after receipt of a negative test result should be discussed with regional health services staff.
 - A symptom screen and temperature check needs to be performed within 24 hours of departure from the facility.
 - Documentation of the symptom screen, temperature, and test result must be included in the exit summary / transfer paperwork.
- A new quarantine period is required at the BOP receiving facility.
- If inmates are being transferred to an institution with COVID-19 cases, housing them in an area known to be free from COVID-19 is preferred, when available.

Inmates with a history of COVID-19.

- Inmates with a history of COVID-19 who are releasing or transferring and have met current CDC release from isolation criteria (symptom-based or time-based) do not need to be placed into quarantine and should not be tested if they are within 90 days of their initial symptom onset (for symptomatic cases) or initial positive COVID-19 test (for asymptomatic cases).
 - Inmates who are more than 90 days from their initial symptom onset (for symptomatic cases) or initial positive COVID-19 test (for asymptomatic cases) are managed like inmates who have not had COVID-19 (Release/Transfer Quarantine with symptom screen, temperature check, and COVID-19 PCR test at the beginning and end of the quarantine period).
 - Inmates with active COVID-19 who continue to require isolation should not be released or transferred unless absolutely necessary (e.g. immediate release, completion of sentence). Special precautions and coordination is necessary for such cases, including use of appropriate PPE / source control and notification of appropriate civilian health authorities or receiving correctional jurisdictions.

- A final symptom screen and temperature check should also be performed within 24 hours of transfer or release.
- Documentation on the exit summary / transfer paperwork needs to include results of the final screen and temperature check, the most recent COVID-19 test result, and the inmate's COVID-19 history (e.g. date of onset/diagnosis, date of initial positive test, date and criteria used for release from isolation, and any complications or sequelae from the illness).
- Notification should be made to the receiving facility, jurisdiction, or local health authorities of the transfer.

Immediate Releases from BOP Custody

The following actions should be taken when an inmate cannot meet the above requirements for transfer or release from custody because of statutory or judicial requirements.

- A symptom screen, temperature check, and rapid point-of-care (Abbott ID Now) PCR test should be performed on the day of departure and documented in the electronic health record, exit summary, and/or transfer paperwork.
- The local health authorities in the receiving locality should be notified and the travel arrangements coordinated with them if necessary (e.g. if quarantine or isolation conditions are required during transportation or upon their arrival).
- The inmate should wear a face covering when departing the facility and while en route to their destination.