

MODULE 8. INMATE PROGRAMING AND SERVICES

MODULE 8 TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INMATE SERVICES	1
1. RECREATION	1
2. UNICOR	1
3. WORK DETAILS	2
4. FOOD SERVICE	2
5. LAUNDRY	2
6. ELECTRONIC LAW LIBRARY (ELL) AND DISCOVERY MATERIALS	3
B. PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS.....	3
C. HOUSING CONSIDERATIONS	3
D. PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES	4

A. INMATE SERVICES

- Develop a local daily cleaning schedule utilizing your housekeeping plan to clean and disinfect, when indicated, equipment used by multiple inmates (kitchen, UNICOR, barber shop tools, etc) and areas where inmates gather (dining hall, recreation, etc.)
 - Refer to **MODULE 1 – Infection Prevention and Control Measures** for specific guidance regarding cleaning and disinfection.

1. RECREATION

- Stagger time in recreation spaces. Generally, inmates in groups of no more than 100 should access the recreation yard for a minimum of one hour at a time, so long as they maintain social distancing and wear cloth face coverings when indicated.
- Inmates should have access to the recreation yard at least three times per week, and attend with inmates from their designated housing units.
- Group sports are prohibited.
- Use of gym equipment (e.g., weights, basketballs) are prohibited.
- Small classes that do not involve physical contact may be offered at the discretion of the Warden. If this occurs, all equipment / materials must be thoroughly sanitized after each use.
- Recreation will continue in Special Housing, consistent with standards outlined in policy.

2. UNICOR

- In consultation with the Safety and Health Services departments, Wardens will develop plans to safely have UNICOR operations at their institutions.
- Plans should include the use of appropriate face coverings or PPE, as necessary, as well as disinfection and cleaning procedures, etc. Refer to **Module 1- Infection Prevention and Control Measures**.

- Space inmates six feet apart for work details, with facial coverings in place, and, if possible, provide some type of barrier between workers
- Consider a modification of UNICOR detail assignments or shifts with two or more details, each working a separate shift. House each individual detail together and on a separate unit from the other details or shifts so that if one unit/shift is affected by COVID-19, another detail/shift can cover the same assignment.
- Consider cross-training individuals for increased job coverage within UNICOR. House these individuals separately from the primary work group.

3. WORK DETAILS

- Consider a modification of work detail assignments so that each detail includes only individuals from a single housing unit.
- Cross-train individuals for increased job coverage for details such as food service, laundry, and orderlies. House these individuals separately from the primary work group.
- Screen orderlies assigned to health service units (HSUs) for COVID-19 symptoms and temperature prior to each shift.
→ *Consider a weekly testing schedule for inmate workers in long-term care or in-patient units.*
- In facilities with active COVID-19 cases (staff or inmate), consider screening inmate food service workers and orderlies for COVID-19 symptoms and temperature prior to each shift, as well as periodic testing for COVID-19.
- Space inmates six feet apart for work details, with facial coverings in place, and, if possible, provide some type of barrier between workers.

4. FOOD SERVICE / DINING HALL

The following options may be considered to reduce the interaction between individuals, especially when masks are removed for the purposes of eating.

- Require that masks not be removed unless the person is actually eating their food.
- Stagger meals (for instance, one housing unit at a time) to allow for social distancing.
- In lines, enforce the need to be six-feet apart. Consider marking the floors at six-foot intervals.
- Rearrange dining hall seating to increase space between individuals, e.g., remove every other chair and use only one side of a table so individuals are not facing each other.
- Minimize self-serve foods, e.g., eliminate salad bars.
- Provide meals inside housing units or cells.

5. LAUNDRY

There are no requirements to separate laundry between risk groups. Laundry from a COVID-19 case can be washed with other individuals' laundry.

- Individuals handling laundry from COVID-19 cases should wear disposable gloves, discard the gloves after each use (e.g., after putting laundry into the washing machines), and perform hand hygiene—before performing other duties.
- Do not shake dirty laundry, to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Launder items using the hottest appropriate water setting, and dry items completely.

6. ELECTRONIC LAW LIBRARY (ELL) AND DISCOVERY MATERIALS

- Whenever possible, consistent with social distancing protocols and safe institution operations, inmates should be permitted access to the ELL under conditions determined by the Warden at each facility.
- Similarly, inmates will need access to discovery materials relevant to pending cases, beyond those which are personally maintained by the inmates in their cells. It is recommended that a schedule be established to permit fair and timely access to ELL terminals and discovery materials upon inmate request, and that the schedule be provided to inmates at the facility.

B. PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

- ➔ *Institutions with **ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES** may make exceptions to the following programming requirements for the safety of staff and inmates. Modification requests are sent to the Regional Director and concurrence given by the Reentry Services Division.*
- ➔ *CDC guidance for schools and gatherings may be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>*

Programming is an essential function in our facilities; furthermore, delivery of the **FIRST STEP ACT (FSA)**-approved **EVIDENCE-BASED RECIDIVISM REDUCTION (EBRR)** programs and **PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES (PAs)** are required by law. Institutions will offer programming in the following ways:

- **RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS** (i.e., RDAP, BRAVE, SOTP, TCU, FIT, etc.) will continue as required by policy. Programs may resume groups with more than 10 participants, so long as other social distancing modifications remain in place (e.g., holding groups in larger spaces; suspending community meetings, etc.)
- **NON-RESIDENTIAL EBRR** programs and PAs (e.g., GED, Anger Management) will continue. These services will be offered at no less than half of their regular capacity.
- Institutions should continue to deliver EBRR and PA programming consistent with the curriculum. However, for purposes of safety/social distancing, staff may offer programs in the housing unit or in outdoor or unused spaces.
- **GED TESTING**, in groups of six or less, will resume with priority given to inmates releasing within 120 days. Other inmates may be tested if resources allow.
- **EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM** may be converted to self-study modalities when able.
- Consider suspending group programs not required by law.
 - ➔ *With discontinuation of group activities, it is vitally important to creatively identify and provide **ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF ACTIVITY** to support the mental health of incarcerated individuals during the pandemic.*

C. HOUSING CONSIDERATIONS

- Arrange bunks so that individuals sleep head-to-foot to increase the distance between their faces.
- Rearrange scheduled movements to minimize mixing of individuals from different housing units.
- Ensure thorough cleaning/disinfection of living space when assigned to a new occupant.

- If space allows, reassign bunks to provide more space between individuals (ideally six feet or more in all directions). Ensure that bunks are cleaned thoroughly if assigned to a new occupant.
- Minimize the number of individuals housed in the same room as much as possible.
- Consider opening vacant housing units to decrease population density, when feasible.

D. PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

While protecting the health of inmates and staff, institutions must also ensure that:

- Mental health emergencies are prevented.
- Appropriate care is provided to vulnerable inmates.

The following recommendations will support these objectives:

- If inmates are confined to their cells, single celling should be eliminated to the greatest extent possible, to reduce the isolation and privacy that can facilitate suicide. Psychology Services staff should be consulted regarding any inmates proposed for single celling to ensure they are not particularly vulnerable individuals and/or to make recommendations.
- Psychologists must conduct daily rounds in all areas where inmates are housed or confined, to observe and communicate with inmates; psychologists may make recommendations regarding vulnerable inmates to ensure that their needs are met. If psychologist staffing levels necessitate, Treatment Specialists may assist with rounds.
- Psychologists must remove inmates from their cells for private sessions when providing crisis intervention or suicide risk assessments.
- Psychologists must offer to remove inmates with CARE3-MH and CARE4-MH assignments from their cells at least weekly for individual clinical contact.
- If suicide watch is recommended by a staff member and the usual suicide watch room is not available, [PS5324.08, SECTION 12, SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM](#), states that under emergency conditions a room other than the designated suicide watch room may be used, as long as an inmate on watch is returned to the approved room when it becomes available. Emergency suicide watch rooms may not be in the Special Housing Unit.
- Institutions may elect to continue using suicide watch companions at the discretion of the Warden.