



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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Bureau of Prisons Expands COVID-19 Testing

WASHINGTON - Recently, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) began expanding COVID-19 testing of inmates utilizing the Abbott ID NOW instrument for Rapid RNA testing at select facilities experiencing widespread transmission. The BOP continues to provide testing for COVID-19, symptomatic inmates, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The BOP received ten Abbott ID NOW instruments on April 10, 2020, and a day later, 264 test kits were deployed to institutions with known COVID-19 cases. Their primary role is for rapid testing of newly symptomatic cases to confirm the diagnosis quickly and isolate them appropriately. Expanding the testing with the Abbott ID NOW instruments on asymptomatic inmates will assist the slowing of transmission with isolating those individuals who test positive and quarantining contacts.

Next week the BOP will receive ten additional Abbott ID NOW instruments. The deployment of these additional resources will be based on facility need to contain widespread transmission and the need for early, aggressive interventions required to slow transmission at facilities with a high number of at-risk inmates such as medical referral centers.

Asymptomatic inmates who test positive for COVID-19 can transmit the virus to other inmates. The testing of asymptomatic inmates will assist in slowing transmissions within a correctional setting along with increasing the number of COVID-19 positive tests reflective on the BOP.gov website.

Expanding COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic inmates with the Abbott ID NOW instrument and collaboration with public health entities will improve the BOP's ability to manage COVID-19 at facilities experiencing widespread transmission. The COVID-19 testing of inmates utilizing the Abbott ID NOW instrument will provide BOP's facilities the opportunity to implement a more comprehensive approach to medical isolation of inmates infected with the virus, whether asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic or symptomatic.