



Ned Lamont
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Rollin Cook
Commissioner

TO: All Staff
FROM: Rollin Cook, Commissioner
DATE: March 4, 2020
SUBJECT: Coronavirus Communication

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rollin Cook".

I want to take this time to reassure agency employees that the Department of Correction, following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is taking all precautions associated with the coronavirus. We are participating in the Governor's weekly "COVID-19 Coronavirus Unified Command Briefing" calls with key organizations and agencies including the Department of Public Health. I have great confidence in our level of preparedness as a Department and a state as a whole. We are committed to sharing all pertinent information that is exchanged through these multi-agency conference calls. Earlier this week, Governor Lamont issued a statewide memo reiterating that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Connecticut.

We are asking any employee who has recently traveled to China, Italy, South Korea, Iran or Japan or has interacted with someone returning from any of these countries which have been identified by the CDC as high risk areas, to immediately contact your direct supervisor and Human Resources business partner assigned to your facility.

Following our well established pandemic plans, we are fully prepared to handle an outbreak of the coronavirus if the scenario were to occur in any of our facilities. Each Unit Administrator maintains the plans associated with housing designation and custody operations, while Health Services maintains the plans associated with identification and treatment. Much like the procedures put in motion during the overseas Ebola outbreak of 2014, we will be implementing a screening tool for the direct intake process at our county jails as well as a review process for civilians entering our visiting rooms, contracted vendors working in our facilities and volunteers conducting programming to properly identify anyone at risk.

We anticipate updates from the CDC to be fluid in nature and change frequently. In an effort to maintain continuous communication, Director of Health Services, Dr. Robert Richeson has designated Dr. Kavita Prabhakar, our agency's infectious disease physician, as the agency point person to deliver updates from the CDC in more detail through the department's External Affairs Division.

Please continue to follow routine preventative measures such as frequent hand washing and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Thank you for your continued dedication and cooperation as we navigate this recent challenge.