

## **Frequently Asked Questions FAQ's**

### **Where does the Salt River Department of Corrections (SRDOC) receive information from regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?**

We are following multiple resources and publications, mainly the guidance from the SRPMIC community, State of Arizona Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control in regard to precautions, practices and prevention methods for COVID-19 and correctional best practices.

We continue to review and identify policies and strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff, detainees in our custody and visitors.

### **What types of precautions are you taking to stop the spread of COVID?**

The community has activated the Emergency Operations Center EOC and DOC has activated our Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), which establishes direct response and management ensuring that critical functions continue within our department.

Our department have identified essential function staff and operations, with the primary focus on safety, sanitation, security and supervision.

Essential services such as food, laundry, medical, behavioral health, and maintenance continue in our facilities.

Isolation and quarantine plans have been established until those who are newly admitted have been tested and verified of no Covid-19 symptoms before being placed in general population GP.

We have educated our detainees on precautions and prevention measures and what is currently happening at the facility.

We have increased cleaning and disinfecting efforts throughout the facility including high touch areas.

We have suspended visitation and volunteer activities until further notice.

We have instituted staff screening for all staff as they enter a facility, including taking their temperature and other precautions as outlined by the community.

SRDOC staff have access to the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and DOC staff will begin to begin wearing masks in order to keep them from spreading germs to others in the facility, especially if a 6ft distance cannot be ensured.

Detainees have also been provided with masks. The detainees have been instructed to wear the masks anytime they go on transports (mandatory) or come out of their cells (optional).

Soap and sanitary items are provided to detainees, other optional additional sanitary items can be purchased through commissary.

If an inmate shows symptoms of flu (shortness of breath, fever, cough etc), has a temperature of 100.4 or above, DOC staff will refer them to medical for an assessment.

Admission and intake processes have been altered to ensure individual assessment, separation and cohorting of new admissions for their first 14 days in the facility.

Safety measures also include screening all detainees upon admission, which would be in addition to medical and behavioral health assessments normally done, prior to entering facility.

**What are you doing for the detainees who cannot have visitation and programs?**

Tablet and phone service is still available and we provide the detainees with two free phone cards a week to maintain those family ties. We still maintain recreational hours each day.

**What happens when an inmate begins to show symptoms of COVID-19?**

Detainees with new onset of fever, cough, or shortness of breath are tested for COVID-19 if clinically indicated. Medical staff in our facility have the testing materials to conduct the tests where indicated.

**What happens if an inmate tests positive for COVID-19?**

The inmate will be placed in isolation. If it is determined a detainee requires hospitalization, the inmate will be taken to a local hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Medical and correctional staff that deal with a positive inmate are using CDC recommended personal protection equipment (PPE) and procedures to mitigate the risk.

**Are releases being impacted by COVID-19?**

Scheduled inmate releases are proceeding as usual. The Community court will determine all other release/detainment matters.

**Are you accepting new detainees?**

Yes, we do not have the authority to refuse to take custody of an inmate who is legally sentenced to our care and custody by the courts or Police Department.