



## 2. COVID-19 Infection Prevention Recommendations for Jail and Detention Center Staff

1. **Follow the 3 Ws: Wear a cloth mask, Wait six feet apart, and Wash your hands.**
  - All people in the facility, including staff, incarcerated people, and visitors, should wear a mask or cloth face covering, whenever possible. Staff such as onsite healthcare staff or detention officers providing direct care or in close contact with COVID-19 positive persons should follow [CDC recommendations for personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) in correctional facilities.
  - Stay 6 feet apart from others in common areas such as break rooms and control rooms.
  - Wash hands frequently or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60% or more alcohol content).
  - Follow these recommendations on and off duty to keep yourself and your family safe.
  
2. **Do not work while you are sick.**
  - Do not come to work if you feel sick or have [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Review your sick leave policy for how to notify your workplace of your absence.
  - When you arrive at work each day, you may be given a [verbal screening](#) and temperature check before entering the facility.
  - If you start feeling sick at work, leave the facility as soon as possible.
  - [Self-isolate](#) at home and contact your healthcare provider for further advice. Get rest and stay hydrated. Seek urgent care or call 911 if you start having trouble breathing or any other [signs of an emergency](#).
  - If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you may not work until you meet the [criteria for being released from isolation](#), even if you are asymptomatic.
  
3. **As essential workers, you may be asked to work while in quarantine if there are staffing shortages.**
  - Staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms should ideally [quarantine](#) at home. If necessary for continued operation of the facility, asymptomatic exposed staff may work while following the precautions outlined in [CDC guidance](#).
  - Symptomatic persons should not report to work in any circumstance.
  
4. **During a COVID-19 outbreak, maintain a consistent duty assignment in the same area of the facility across shifts.**
  - Working in the same location for each shift reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission between buildings or areas of the facility.
  - This strategy is a good idea at all times but required when there is an outbreak.
  
5. **Use personal protective equipment (PPE) properly.**

- Take a training on [how to put on, remove, and dispose of PPE](#) and teach inmates how to properly use PPE as well. Please see the [CDC guidance for correctional facilities](#) for the latest recommendations on PPE use.
- Remove and discard PPE after leaving a space where PPE is needed. If PPE shortages require extended use, move from areas of low exposure risk to areas of high exposure risk while wearing the same PPE, to reduce the risk of transmission to different parts of the facility.
- Before using a N-95 respirator, you must be [medically cleared](#) and [fit-tested by a safety officer or industrial hygienist](#). Check [here](#) to be sure that [any facial hair](#) that you have will not interfere with the seal of the respirator.
  - At least one facility employee should be trained to administer a [respiratory protection program](#) to advise staff on fit and use of respiratory protection. Training is available through the [NC Occupational Safety & Health Education & Research Center](#) or other similar training providers.

**6. Clean and disinfect shared equipment regularly.**

- All shared equipment, including keys, radios, handcuffs, control panels, keyboards/mouse, telephones, and microphones should be cleaned several times per day and at the end of each shift.
- Use a disinfectant that is [EPA-registered as effective against coronaviruses](#) and follow manufacturer's directions for use.

**7. Change out of your uniforms and wear street clothes and shoes home to reduce the risk of carrying COVID-19.**

- If an onsite laundry is available, launder your own uniforms at work instead of taking them home.
- Do not shake dirty clothes or linens. Disinfect all surfaces between uses of the laundry room.

**8. If there is COVID-19 in your facility:**

- Provide clear information to inmates about the presence of COVID-19 in your facility. Reinforce the importance of [properly wearing masks](#), social distancing, and [hand hygiene](#).
- Remain at least 6 feet away from anyone with COVID-19 symptoms whenever possible and always use [appropriate PPE](#).