



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Office of Public Affairs  
202-514-6551

## **Bureau of Prisons To Expand Rapid Testing Capabilities**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) announced today it will substantially expand testing starting at BOP detention and quarantine sites, using additional Abbott ID NOW instruments for Rapid RNA testing obtained from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Bureau has been working with HHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since March 2020 in order to increase testing capabilities within the agency. Three quarantine sites already have one Abbott machine each: FCI Gilmer, WV; FTC Oklahoma City, OK; and FCC Yazoo, MS.

The Bureau continues to provide testing for COVID-19 symptomatic inmates, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). “These additional testing resources will enable us to enhance our response to the pandemic and enhance the safety of our prisons” said Director Michael Carvajal. “I want to thank Attorney General Barr for his unwavering support, particularly with regard to assistance in expanding the BOP’s testing capacity.”

The Bureau currently has testing in place at facilities experiencing sustained transmission, and the additional test kits will be placed first at quarantine and pre-trial detention centers. As we continue to manage the federal inmate population, including the management of detention bedspace, the Bureau’s increased use of testing will help to mitigate the transmission of the disease, and allow the Bureau to resume limited movement as necessary to manage the arrival of inmates from outside Bureau custody.

Additional testing using the Abbott instruments requires planning and resources. Testing of a sample takes 15 minutes per sample, allowing for four tests per hour. Two personnel are required to administer the tests. The Bureau plans to leverage its comprehensive medical contracts to acquire personnel to assist with testing where such services are available.

The Bureau has established protocols regarding testing, to include:

- Inmates who have a Negative test result and are asymptomatic will be placed in quarantine for a fourteen (14) day period.
- Inmates who have a Positive test result but are asymptomatic, will be placed in isolation.
- Inmates who are symptomatic are placed in isolation prior to testing and will be immediately tested.
- Inmates who have a Negative test result but are symptomatic will be placed in isolation.

The Bureau’s Health Services Division will disseminate guidance regarding testing procedures for these detention and quarantine sites in accordance with CDC recommendations. The Bureau’s internal movement has been decreased 90% from this same time last year.

Additional information about the Federal Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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