



U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

Prisoner Operations Division

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance for Screening United States Marshals Service Prisoners

Last Updated: March 13, 2020

**Note: Updates and more detailed guidance will be provided as it becomes available.*

Cellblock screening of arrestees on intake (See Attachment A: COVID-19 Symptom Screening)

- Upon intake, arrestees should be asked about flu-like symptoms, **particularly fever, cough, and difficulty breathing**. Thermometers *are not required* for screening but may be used in place of (or in addition to) questioning about fever. If a thermometer is used, a forehead “no touch” thermometer is advised. *Fever is defined as temperature $\geq 100.4^{\circ}F$*
- Arrestees presenting from another agency with flu-like symptoms should not be accepted from the arresting agent until they have been medically cleared.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidance for law enforcement personnel who must be within six feet of prisoners with flu-like symptoms. From past health crises, the CDC recognizes that law enforcement personnel may not be able to meet the standards set by the CDC for various reasons. **Accordingly, CDC guidance is shown below along with alternative practices suggested by CDC, if CDC guidance cannot be achieved:**
 - **United States Marshals Service (USMS) personnel** should put on protective gear in the order shown below and take it off in reverse order EXCEPT the N-95 respirator should come off last:
 - **Thorough handwashing** is required before and after prisoner handling.
 - Use a **disposable isolation gown or single use/disposable coveralls**.
 - **CDC-approved alternative:** If unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls, ensure duty belt and gear are disinfected after contact with the arrestee.
 - Put on an approved and **fit-tested N-95 respirator (for single use)**
 - **CDC-approved alternative:**
 - If supplies of N-95 respirators are limited, use the N-95 respirator for an extended period of time, meaning wear the same respirator for repeated close contact with multiple arrestees without removing it. The N-95 **MUST** be disposed once removed.
 - If N-95 respirators are not available, use a surgical facemask.
 - Use **goggles** or a **face shield** that fully covers the front and sides of the face for eye protection. Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
 - **CDC-approved alternative:** None.
 - The USMS Medical Director recommends that if goggles or face shields are not available, personnel should use their ballistic

eyewear. Ballistic eyewear do not provide the same level of splash or droplet protection as goggles or face shields.

- Use **disposable non-sterile gloves**. Remove and put on new gloves for each new, symptomatic arrestee.
- **Arrestee:**
 - Put a disposable **surgical facemask on symptomatic arrestees**.
 - **Isolate in a single cell** or if available, **a negative air pressure cell**.
 - **Contact** a healthcare professional for a further health evaluation.

***Use similar precautions during prisoner transport, Court productions, etc.*

Court production of prisoners with flu-like/COVID-19 symptoms

- Prisoners with flu-like symptoms should not appear in Court.
- If the Court mandates a production, screening and prisoner/personnel precautions are the same as described above. The District may request the assistance of the Prisoner Operations Division (POD) Office of Medical Operations (OMO) staff to help explain to public health concerns to the Court.

Prisoner movement in detention facilities affected by suspected or confirmed COVID-19

- Prisoner movements should not take place:
 - Within 14 days after last exposure to a suspected/confirmed case OR
 - If less than 24 hours have elapsed since symptom resolution, which means they must be symptom-free without medications for fever, cough, etc.
- While the USMS cannot mandate that detention facilities to follow CDC clinical management guidance, correctional and detention facilities are strongly encouraged to follow it.

Reporting of suspected and/or confirmed COVID-19 cases

- Districts should report information regarding quarantines of USMS prisoners with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 disease to POD/OMO staff at **703-740-8417** and include the following information:
 - Name of detention facility,
 - Number of prisoners affected (either ill or in quarantine), and
 - Number of individual facility housing units closed to prisoner movements.

Detailed guidance may be found in USMS Policy Directives 9.6, [Prisoner Airborne Pathogen Control](#), and 9.20, [Cellblock Operations](#). For further questions, please contact OMO at 703-740-8417.

Attachment A: COVID-19 Symptom Screening

COVID-19 TRIAGE: CELL BLOCK PERSONNEL

Do you have:

- ▶ *Fever?*
- ▶ *Cough?*
- ▶ *Difficulty breathing?*
- ▶ *Any close contact with someone with flu-like symptoms or known COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks?*

If you receive a yes answer to Fever and any of the other above symptoms, refer the prisoner for medical clearance by healthcare personnel before acceptance into custody.

COVID-19 Triage (Spanish)

Tiene usted:

- ▶ **Fiebre?**
- ▶ **Tos?**
- ▶ **Respiración con dificultad?**
- ▶ **Ha estado en contacto con alguien enfermo en las últimas dos semanas?**