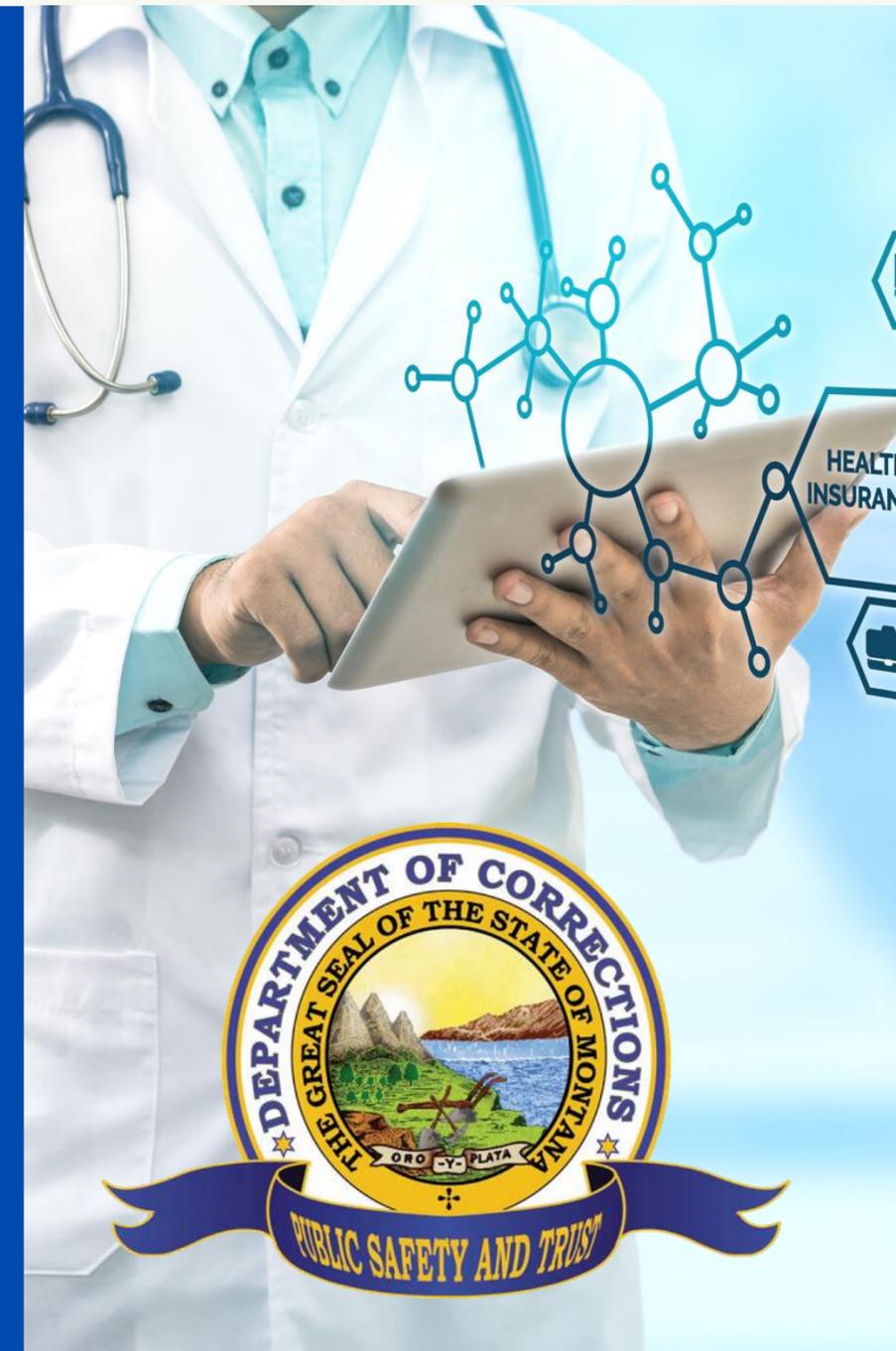


Montana Department of Corrections



# COVID-19 Response Update

LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE  
JULY 13, 2020



# Sentinel Testing Update

SENTINEL TESTING CONTINUES AT ALL DOC AND  
DOC-CONTRACT FACILITIES

## SECURE FACILITIES

- 1,518 offenders, 356 staff
- 1 positive result at MWP

## ALT SECURE FACILITIES

(prerelease, treatment)

- 526 offenders
- 190 staff
- 2 positive results at Alpha House in Billings

Due to the increased number of tests, cases occurring, it is taking longer for the department to receive asymptomatic results.



# PPE PROVIDED TO INMATES AT DOC FACILITIES

As an integral part of its commitment to maintaining the health of inmates in its facilities, all inmates receive PPE to assist in this effort.

## Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison PPE All inmates received the following PPE:

- Cloth sneeze guards
- Gloves
- Protective boots (if needed for cleaning)
- Soap and water
- Cleaning supplies
  - disinfectant cleaner, clean rags (inmates are supervised during use of these items)

**Ongoing education from Clinical Services staff**



# ACCOMMODATIONS FOR HEARING IMPAIRED INMATES

When inmates receive PPE, they are provided with instructions for proper care and use, along with information regarding appropriate accommodations for hearing impaired individuals.

When communicating with hearing impaired inmates, facility staff members must stand 6 feet away from the inmate, raise their face mask, and speak to allow lip reading.



# CONTROLLED MOVEMENT OF INMATES

REQUESTED MOVES EVALUATED IN ADVANCE BY DOC  
CLINICAL SERVICES STAFF, DPHHS

–suspended from some “hot spot” communities as a result of guidance from our Clinical Services staff, county health departments and DPHHS.

- Inmate screening occurs when leaving facility of origin, again on arrival at DOC facility.
- Mandatory, 14-day quarantining of new arrivals at MSP, MWP and Pine Hills.
- COVID 19 testing offered to inmates at intake.

\*These processes are constantly evolving as medical guidance related to managing the virus changes rapidly and regularly.



# VISITATION, COMMUNICATION

In-person visitation at our secure facilities remains suspended to help ensure the health of staff, inmates and the public.

CenturyLink will continue to provide one free phone call and one free video call per week to every inmate.

Mail service is available.

MWP is piloting an email program – will be evaluated, and if successful, expanded to other facilities.



# PROVIDING AID TO OUR CONTRACT FACILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

**Offering informational materials, sharing expertise of Clinical Services staff.**

**Delivering \$905,088 in subsistence payments (March through June) to assist with impact of reduced bed usage.**

**Paying room and board costs for offenders in prerelease centers whose employment was affected by COVID-19.**

In process of reviewing reimbursement requests from facilities for PPE purchases.

Purchasing equipment for all facilities including:

- Disinfecting machines, cleaning solution
- Remote blood pressure stations
- Thermometers
- Handwashing stations

Estimated cost of equipment per prerelease facility is \$15,000.



Questions?

