



CONSERVING THE PEACE THROUGH VALUES DRIVEN SERVICE / SHERIFF PAT GARRETT

March 30, 2020

The Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) is deploying the following measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. To date, there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst WCSO staff or inmates.

GENERAL UPDATES

All staffing was reviewed and, where feasible, some personnel are telecommuting. Other essential work groups are working rotation schedules. Monitoring the health and well-being of all staff, to best serve the community as safely as possible and for the duration of this event continues to be critical. Additionally, all WCSO hosted training is canceled or postponed. All lobbies (Headquarters, East Precinct, Bethany and Cornelius) are closed to the public and fingerprinting services for the public (non-criminal) are cancelled. Due to the closure of the public lobbies, at WCSO Headquarters, the public is being served via Records after hours window and Civil lockbox. Staff receive a daily COVID-19 update and are well versed on the topic; symptoms and need to practice social distancing whenever feasible.

JAIL DIVISION

The population density of the jail creates a risk of infection and transmission for staff and adults in custody. The following measures are in place to ensure the continued effective operations of the Jail and maintain staff healthy and available for duty.

USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE):

To prevent the potential spread of illness, the Washington County Jail requires staff to equip themselves with proper PPE when dealing with adults in custody. Depending on recommendations from medical staff this may include gloves, full gowns, and face shields. There is enough PPE for staff and supply levels are closely monitored.

INMATE HOUSING AND MOVEMENT:

All adults in custody are screened upon arrival and follow medical staff's recommendations for medical segregation, isolation or special watch. A tiered plan is in place for housing adults in custody who may be displaying any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Our housing options for COVID-19 include the Medical Observation Unit, which has two negative pressure cells, and smaller segregation areas within two of our general population pods, that contain eight individual cells within a separate glassed-in area. The initial tier plan allows for isolation of up to 18 adults in custody.

In an abundance of caution, the Orientation Pod moved from a unit with dorm-style rooms to a unit with individual cells. Adults in custody are left in this pod for up to two weeks before moving them to other pods throughout the facility. The goal is to maintain a consistency of lodging so adults in custody will be moved less frequently.

To assist with social distancing within the jail, general population inmate out time is modified to no more than 25 adults in custody at one time, followed by thorough pod cleaning prior to the next group of 25. This cycle of out-time and cleaning will continue indefinitely. Additionally, meal service for adults in custody is conducted in their assigned cells.

All the special needs of our adults in custody are taken into consideration when determining their house units. We are focused on reducing movement in order minimize the spread of any contagious infections.

Asymptomatic adults in custody who qualify to the Community Corrections Center (CCC) will continued to be transferred until further notice.

The population of the jail, through collaboration with criminal justice partners, is significantly reduced. Social distancing is maintained in all areas of the Jail, for both staff and adults in custody.

Vulnerable populations are being monitored regularly. Signage indicating all medical fees for services related to cold, flu or COVID-19 will be waived were placed in all living areas. Vulnerable adults who are in custody for low level or non-violent crimes are evaluated for Electronic Home Detention bracelets; the Jail absorbed the cost.

SCREENING OF ADULTS IN CUSTODY:

- Intake Screening Expansion:

As a precautionary measure jail staff conduct a brief COVID-19 and Flu medical assessment along with the current medical and suicide assessments. The flu assessment, which started the first week of February, entails several questions to include:

- Do you feel you have a fever, flu like symptoms AND a cough or shortness of breath?
- Have you traveled outside the US within the last month?

If an arrestee responds “yes” to either of these questions, staff will contact a jail nurse immediately so the nurse may initiate Medical Screening Protocols to determine level of risk. Intake Deputies must report to medical staff immediately if the arrestee indicates he/she has a fever or other medically pertinent information. All necessary precautions will be taken once a person is identified as high risk; including placing a mask on the person and isolation to prevent potential spread.

- Medical Screening Protocols:

Jail medical staff expanded patient intake screenings to include a supplemental intake screening form with questions related to symptomology and exposure risk.

- Intake Screening Temperature:

All arresting officers and arrestees are met in the vehicle sally port of the Washington County Jail by jail staff where their temperatures are checked prior to physical entry into the intake area. This temperature assists in determining high risk arrestees. Any individual with a body

temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher and/or a respiratory cough may not be accepted into the Washington County Jail.

Positive Symptoms – If an individual meets the criteria listed above, to include a respiratory cough and/or a confirmed temperature at or above 100.4 degrees, the individual should don a protective mask and staff should notify jail medical and a supervisor for further instructions. A medical exam by a registered nurse determines if the person will enter the jail (accepting custody) or be refused and the officer directed to take the arrestee to a local hospital for further examination and clearance.

Prohibit Transport of Subjects Exhibiting Symptoms Directly to Jail:

The jail is in contact with the local law enforcement agencies on protocols for arrestees entering the jail. If the custody exhibits symptoms of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) - fever; cough and/or shortness of breath – arresting offices are to utilize citing and releasing, when reasonable, prior to a lodging decision at the Washington County Jail.

Jail Facility Transports Limits:

Washington County Jail limited those who come into the facility via the NW Shuttle system (Out of County Transports and Extraditions). Only those individuals who meet the criteria as indicated below will be returned to our facility.

Outgoing transports are strictly screened prior to being transported, according to the directive sent out to all Oregon jails by Oregon Transport Association (OTA). Temperature criteria of 100.4 degrees and/or coughing or breathing difficulty are a presumptive refusal for transport.

All low level or non-violent offenders may be released prior to transport, according to criteria below. Jail Transport personnel are also working collaboratively with Parole and Probation to identify those who may be released, prior to transport.

Facility Transport Criteria:

The following individuals will be given a court date 30 days out and not transported to the jail:

- The Warrant (including out of county) must be for a C-felony or below. No A or B felony charges should be cited and released.
- No sex charges and no domestic violence charges will be cited and released.
- Violent person crimes are of primary concern for public safety and should not be released.

Work in Lieu of Jail (WILOJ) and Weekender (alternate programs to serve sentences as determined by the Jail and the Judge):

All WILOJ and Weekender programming is suspended until further notice. Judicial partners are working collaboratively for alternative sentencing options.

INCREASED CLEANING WITHIN THE JAIL:

The Centers for Disease Control, (CDC) and World Health Organization, (WHO) maintain that some of the easiest and most effective precautions to take are to clean hands often, avoid touching the face and to clean, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. The Washington County Jail instituted increased cleaning of all areas of the jail (with a concentration on high-use areas) to occur multiple times each day; ensuring areas are continually sanitized to prevent the spread of the virus.

SOAP:

All inmates receive soap upon lodging in the Washington County Jail. Additional bars of soap were ordered for each adult in custody. Ensuring every inmate has access to soap as needed, both in their cells and in the common areas, is a priority. Supply levels are closely monitored.

SOCIAL VISITS:

Social visits are suspended indefinitely. The suspension is reassessed every two weeks to determine when it can safely be returned to regularly scheduled visiting hours. Washington County Jail Command staff contacted the phone and tablet contractor to arrange additional inmate telephone and video communications. As of this time, the contractor agreed to provide one, 15-minute, video visit per week, free of charge (staff will be notified when this is available on the kiosks). Additional options are being explored.

LEGAL VISITS:

Access to legal counsel remains a priority in the Jail but like social visiting, the Jail is mitigating the risk of exposure created by external visitors. Contact visits are cancelled until further notice. Confidential legal calls will continue in order to ensure adults in custody maintain access to counsel. Additionally, a real-time messaging process for attorneys to get messages to their clients was created.

COURTS:

In collaboration with our Judicial partners, on site courtrooms utilizing video conferencing where feasible is being used to reduce the movement of adults in custody. As per a recent judicial order, no adults in custody are transported to the courthouse until further notice. Phone calls are set up to allow for immediate consultations prior to court appearances.

LOBBY HOURS:

Starting Wednesday, April 1, the jail lobby public hours will change. Monday-Friday the lobby will close at 6:00 pm and will be closed on the weekend. We will accommodate attorneys needing access during the closed hours.

STAFF SCREENING:

Staff must stay home if they are symptomatic (fever and respiratory symptoms such as dry cough and shortness of breath). All persons entering the facility must submit to a temperature check prior to entry.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

All staff are asked to maintain 3-6 feet from each other when feasible.

CONTRACTORS:

Contractor access to the Washington County Jail is restricted to those performing essential services (e.g. food service, medical or mental health, commissary, etc.) or those who perform necessary maintenance on essential systems. Contractors who require access are screened for recent exposure or symptoms of COVID-19.

VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteer visits are suspended indefinitely to limit risk of exposure. Exceptions are approved by the Jail Commander. Alternate means of communication (e.g. telephone calls) are available for adults in custody who request to speak privately with a religious advisor. Volunteers who are approved for access are screened for recent exposure or symptoms of COVID-19.

TOURS AND JOB SHADOWS:

All Jail tours and job shadows are suspended indefinitely.

Jail Command meets on a continuing basis and is committed to keeping the jail posted on any changes or additional information. Staff receive a daily COVID-19 update; deputies are well versed on the topic, symptoms and need to practice social distancing whenever feasible.

For more information regarding COVID-19 please visit the Washington County Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/covid-19.cfm>

PATROL DIVISION

The following measures are implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, acknowledging the community of Washington County will have more confirmed cases in the coming weeks, and noting that first responders are at risk of exposure and to ensure the continued effective operations of law enforcement and the greater criminal justice system.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:

Patrol Vehicles are cleaned after every custody transport and in between each shift.

In person, group shift briefings are no longer held; Any needed information is delivered electronically.

Community members and job applicant Ride-a-longs are cancelled.

Sex Offender registrations are being done online, not in person.

Deputies and subjects in custody have their temperature checked upon arriving at the jail.

When appropriate, criminal citations to appear are being issued, in lieu of transport to the jail.

CALL RESPONSE:

Importantly, we continue to respond to every call for service. When responding, we prefer to make in-person contact with the community. However, many calls can be effectively serviced over the telephone and are done when possible.

An online reporting system is developed and being tested.

911 Dispatchers, Fire Emergency Medical Services and deputies are coordinating response to each medical call, to ensure deputies are not unnecessarily exposed to risk .

When responding to an emergency call that may include the risk of COVID-19 exposure, deputies are instructed to utilize available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

SERVICES DIVISION

TRAINING:

Some Training Unit staff are beginning to redeploy to other critical WCSO posts. Recruits in the upcoming pre-academy and in the hiring process and will continue with modifications to account for social distancing. The 2020 volunteer Reserve academy is suspended.

RECORDS:

All Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) based tows are being entered as Hazards which removes requirement for owner to come to Records for a release. Additionally, Records minimum staffing levels were reduced to maintain social distancing while still maintaining operations.

CIVIL:

The following is suspended:

- All Judicial foreclosure sales
- Non-payment for rent evictions
- Abandoned vehicle tows for expired or missing plates

Additionally, Civil staff is beginning to be redeployed to Jail and other WCSO critical posts. Lastly, 100% of Restraining Orders and subpoenas are being received electronically.

CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSE (CHL) AND ALARMS:

New CHL applications are suspended and renewals are being processed by mail. Late and revocation fees for alarm permits are suspended.

RECRUITMENT:

In-person recruiting events (hiring workshops, physical abilities tests, etc.) are suspended and hiring phases are being modified to accommodate social distancing (i.e. remote interviews and testing).

HIRING:

Final stages of implementing online background investigation system including electronic submittals of Statements of Personal History questionnaires.

PROPERTY EVIDENCE AND FORENSICS:

The Sexual Assault Kit Investigations (SAKI) team activity is suspended. Forensic Technicians only responded to high priority calls and have suspended taking deceased fingerprints. Property evidence is no longer submitted in person, all done via secured lockers.