



For Release: April 13, 2020

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HOW MCSO IS PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

ON PATROL AND INSIDE OUR JAILS

Phoenix, AZ – The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has taken significant steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while prioritizing public safety. We will continue to develop proactive strategies to mitigate exposure for our staff and our community. Here are some of the measures that have been implemented:

Jail Operations:

- All newly booked inmates are screened for symptoms at intake by Correctional Health Services (CHS), those that display COVID-19 symptoms are housed in for medical observation pending resolution of symptoms and/or test results.
- We are limiting non-employee access into jail facilities to legal or essential operational personnel only.
- On March 15, we suspended inmate programs that involve non-employee facilitators or volunteers.
- Legal visits are still taking place through glass partitioned rooms if requested by counsel. Attorneys and/or inmates can request a video visitation instead using inmate tablet technology.
- Our internal housekeeping staff are dedicating more time sanitizing high touch surfaces.
- Inmate tablets are fully deployed in all facilities for inmates to contact family, clergy, and legal counsel.
- Printed CDC advisories regarding the virus, symptoms and personal hygiene are posted in each housing area. The same advisories are also electronically available to the inmates on their tablets.
- Inmates are issued bars of soap and have access to cleaning supplies like Triad cleaner to use in their housing units, cells, etc. which kills the virus.
- We continue to work with Correctional Health Services (CHS) in planning for housing inmates with symptoms based off of the most current information available. There have been no positive tests within the jail so far.
- All inmates are issued surgical masks, all Detention Officers have received N95 quality masks.
- We worked with courts, prosecutors and defense attorneys to identify work release and work furlough inmates, facilitating motions for release. All inmates participating in these programs are no longer in custody.
- Jail population has been reduced significantly from approximately 7,100 in January to 5,634 inmates currently.

- Average daily bookings have been reduced – from approximately 225-300 bookings per day to 100-150 bookings per day.
- As of today, 189 inmates were transferred to the custody of Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry. This action culminates what has been 3 weeks of intense work and collaboration by Sheriff Penzone and the Governor's Office.
- A detailed inmate housing plan has been implemented that reduces unnecessary movement and exposure by defendants who are new to the system and have been in custody for less than 14 days.

Patrol Operations:

- MCSO dispatchers ask COVID specific questions to provide more information to responding deputies to determine if additional PPE will be needed. Dispatchers are checking to see if it is a report only and if it can be handled by phone, limiting in-person contact.
- Sergeants are screening calls to ensure we provide the appropriate response to situations or as requested by the public and will physically respond to emergency traffic as directed by MCSO's policy.
- Commanders have identified staff members who will be responsible for ensuring high touch areas are cleaned at the start and end of each day and to maintain the necessary supplies needed.
- Deputies are instructed to clean and wipe down patrol vehicles at the beginning and end of each shift and as need throughout the shift if a transport has been made.
- Commanders are providing a daily staff review of all personnel to include leave of any kind and any staffing needs. Overtime is authorized for minimum staffing needs and any necessary backfill.
- The use of reusable gloves is discontinued, and all deputies are to carry their PPE kits for use as needed.
- Implementing a staggered start time schedule to minimize the staff numbers at briefings and utilizing field briefings as needed.
- Established alternative work schedules for civilian admin staff to limit the number of office personnel in the district at a time.
- Deputy staff assigned to administrative duties will be available to backfill patrol and to increase visibility in areas of concern or as needed.
- District detectives have an alternative schedule to limit the number of office personnel in the district at a time.
- District Lobbies are closed, ride-along program is suspended. Contact information is posted with all available forms of communication.

MCSO has been and will continue to assess our resources and identify areas where we can reduce staffing and or shut down areas of operation to reallocate resources as needed.

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