



CITY OF RICHMOND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
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ANTIONETTE V. IRVING - SHERIFF



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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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In response to the recent spike in positive COVID-19 results we are reinforcing that all protocols and procedures are being followed at the RCSO. We are taking this pandemic very seriously and continue to ensure that the measures in place are being followed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These measures include partnering with the Virginia Department of Health for ongoing coronavirus testing of inmates and staff.

In addition, the RCSO has instituted all of the guidelines recommended by the CDC to include wearing masks, social distancing within the facility and courts, hand washing/hand sanitizing, temperature checks, and increased janitorial cleaning throughout the day at the facility.

Now that it is in our facility we are doing whatever it takes to mitigate the spread but we need the help of the inmates and the support of their family members as well as the community.

The inmates must wear their mask and wash their hands, practice good hygiene, and clean after themselves. They must also clean the common areas and their cells. We ask that family members help us with this by reminding the inmates of the seriousness of this illness and that age is not a factor. They must follow the protocols that are in place.

It has been recommended that we have limited movement in and out of the facility for inmates. All positive cases are reported directly to VDH daily. Inmates are still afforded the right to court and release as ordered. Those that are precautionary because they tested positive or have been exposed wear the appropriate PPE to exit the facility for court, on video, or for any medical appointments.

Inmates that have tested positive are in the same living/housing areas. They get their vitals checked a minimum of 4 times in a 24 hour period. Inmates that may have been exposed are quarantined, locked down, tested and allowed out during the day to use phones, take showers, and exercise.

We have continuously been testing in small groups and have conducted mass testing. Many of the inmates took the test; however, a majority of them refused to test. On Monday August 31 at 7 am we will be conducting another round of mass testing in conjunction with VDH. We will be testing staff and inmates.

When new inmates come into the facility, they are quarantined in an area strictly for new arrivals where they are housed for a minimum of 14 -20 days. Additionally, any inmates who test positive, have symptoms, or have been exposed are also quarantined for a minimum of 14 - 20 days. Staff members who test positive, have



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symptoms, or have been exposed are placed on immediate leave for testing as well as to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

All inmates who have tested positive or have been exposed are quarantined and monitored to determine if they exhibit any symptoms or any signs of the illness. If an inmate is ill or has symptoms, he or she first receives immediate treatment by the medical team at the Richmond Justice Center provided by our contracted full-service provider, Mediko. In addition, the RCSO has an outstanding relationship with VCU Health System, which is one of the best research medical facilities in the country. VCU is located 1.5 miles from the Justice Center. Any inmate who is determined to need additional care is immediately transported to VCU.

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office has not had any inmates in its custody pass of COVID-19.

I want to thank our staff, medical providers, and the team from VDH for all their hard work and efforts to manage and maintain during this pandemic.

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