



CITY OF RICHMOND
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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richmond City Sheriff's Office is deeply committed to ensuring the safety of the inmates housed at the Richmond City Justice Center, the staff, and everyone who enters into the facility. We have instituted all of the guidelines recommended by the CDC to include wearing masks, social distancing within the facility, and courts, hand washing/sanitizing, daily temperature checks, and increased janitorial cleaning throughout the day at the facility. When new inmates come into the facility, they are not placed in general population. Instead, they are quarantined in an area strictly for new arrivals where they stay for a minimum of 14 days. We have asked our staff to not visit hotspots, and to wear mask whenever in public and to also take sanitation precautions when not at work. We know we still have a lot of hard work ahead of us to maintain the health and safety of inmates and staff.

There are no guarantees in totally eliminating the possibility of the virus from entering any facility, according to Henrico-Richmond District Health Director Dr. Danny Avula in his July 6th press conference, the Richmond City Sheriff's Office has taken the necessary measures to reduce the spread of infection. During our weekly walk-throughs of the facility our goal is to be proactive and keep our finger on the pulse of the wellness of all individuals. At the first sign of any symptoms (staff or inmate) we quarantine and quickly test individuals to determine a diagnosis.

As we start this week, there are (3) three inmates and (2) two staff members that have tested positive for COVID-19 at the Richmond City Sheriff's Office. There are no COVID-19 related hospitalizations. We have quarantined those who tested positive, or are displaying any symptoms, or may have come in contact with either the inmates or staff members. They are scheduled for testing and we have implemented a contact trace process to monitor and control spread. We are working aggressively to schedule additional tests for the broader population of inmates and staff members for the safety of everyone. We will continue to take all of the measures that we currently successfully have in place.

Our Sheriff, Dr. Antionette V. Irving, takes this pandemic very seriously and is committed to continuing to provide the strong, decisive leadership that is in the best interest of the Richmond City Sheriff's Office and the community.

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