



CITY OF RICHMOND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
1701 FAIRFIELD WAY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223
ANTIONETTE V. IRVING - SHERIFF



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THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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At the RCSO, we take this pandemic very seriously and continue to ensure that the measures in place are being followed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have been continuously testing to stay abreast of the status of staff and inmates. As of today, we report that we currently have 9 active cases here at RCJC. There are currently no inmates hospitalized due to COVID-19. In response to these recent test results, we are Cohorting inmates in housing units, especially the units with higher numbers. This is done to reduce the spread with the assistance of controlled movement, limited contact, and increased social distancing. **These efforts have proven to be effective.**

We will continue enforcing all protocols and procedures along with 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. We are doing whatever it takes to mitigate the spread of this virus; however, it is also critical for inmates to also follow the rules, regulations and protocols that are in place. The inmates must wear their mask, wash their hands, practice good hygiene, and clean up after themselves as well as clean the common areas and their cells. Family members can help with these efforts by reminding the inmates of the seriousness of this illness and that age is not a factor; therefore, it is important that they follow the protocols that are in place. We thank the community and family members for their continued well wishes and support during this time but most of all we appreciate their patience,

Inmates are still afforded the opportunity to meet with and speak with their attorneys, have the right to court, and are released as ordered. Those that are precautionary because they tested positive or have been exposed are required to wear the appropriate PPE to exit the facility for court or when on video as well as for any medical appointments. Visitation is done via tablet, telephone, or remote video.

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 symptoms, or have been exposed are placed on immediate leave for testing as well as to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. Inmates that have tested positive are not housed with general population and are placed in a quarantined area. Inmate vitals are checked a minimum of 4 times in 24 hour period, inmates that may have been exposed are quarantined and locked down, tested and allowed out during the day to use phones and take showers as well as exercise. Any inmates testing positive or having been exposed are quarantined and monitored to determine if they exhibit any symptoms or any signs of 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



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miles from the Justice Center. Any inmate who is determined to need additional care is immediately transported to VCU.

We will continue our partnership with the Virginia Department of Health for ongoing coronavirus testing and weekly meetings.

“I would like to thank our staff and medical providers as well as the team from the VDH for all their hard work and efforts to manage and maintain during this pandemic. We have an outstanding, dedicated team and they are fully committed to our efforts to successfully fight this virus and reduce its spread within our facilities and within the community at large.” -- Dr. Antionette V. Irving, Richmond City Sheriff.

To view the Richmond City Sheriff’s Office COVID-19 Documentary, “Telling Our Story,” click the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4WmgYfrc-s>

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