

Mark Garber
Sheriff



To: All Surrounding Law Enforcement Agencies

From: Major Paula Smith

Re: LPCC Bookings during COVID -19

Due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19, along with National, State and Local Declarations, LPCC stopped accepting arrestees being charged with misdemeanor offenses unless there were extenuating circumstances. This action was to minimize the risk of bringing in someone infected with the virus and it spreading amongst the entire facility.

Proactive steps and procedures for minimizing the potential impact of the COVID-19 outbreak were set in place at LPCC in early March. This included the isolation of every inmate that entered the facility for fourteen (14) days so that we could closely monitor them for symptoms and minimize any transmission within the facility. We started checking the temperature of every person that entered the facility for any reason and making inquiries regarding possible exposure and/or symptoms. PPE equipment was issued and precautionary measures were put in place for a potential exposure and/or outbreak. Thus far, as the foregoing procedures have remained in place, no inmate housed in LPCC has tested positive for COVID-19.

We have continued to conduct court proceedings through video and have worked closely with the Judges, the District Attorneys Office, the Indigent Defenders Office, Attorneys and outside agencies to make certain that the Judicial system continues to operate.

Keeping all of this in mind, it is important to note the pandemic has not ended and in fact, new positive cases are continuing to be reported even though government officials are beginning to lift orders in phases. This virus is still a serious threat to a correctional environment, which takes only one infected person to spread the virus amongst 800 inmates and 350 staff members in a matter of few days.

As a result, please be advised that all of the above-described precautions and procedures will remain in place indefinitely. We WILL NOT ACCEPT MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES, unless there are extenuating circumstances. LPCC does not have the space to isolate every inmate that is unable to bond out for fourteen (14) days. We currently have two pods (13 single cells per pod, which equals 26) arranged to



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house isolations. When one pod reaches capacity (13), the fourteen days begin and once they have met their fourteen days with no symptoms, they can then be moved for general population. These procedures, while strict, have likely saved lives and prevented this pandemic from spreading.

On June 1st, 2020, all procedures will be reassessed and reviewed. Should the numbers of COVID-19 cases in our community start decreasing, we may be able to decrease our isolation days to seven (7), which would mean monitoring the incoming inmates for a shorter time for signs of symptoms.


Please be aware that anyone who enters into the facility, will be required to have their temperature taken and if a fever is detected, you will be provided a mask to wear while within the facility. If you refuse to have your temperature taken or refuse to wear the mask, you will be escorted out of the facility.

These precautions are to be taken very seriously as it is out of concern for your health and safety as well as our staff, the inmate population and the community as a whole.

Continue to exercise precautions and wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds as much as practical and supplement with hand sanitizers.

Let's stay safe out there!

Sincerely,


Paula Smith
Major of Corrections

