



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COVID-19 INFORMATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL
UPDATES (4/2/20)**

HONOLULU – This is a Department of Public Safety (PSD) informational and procedural update for 4/2/20. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the prisons or jails.

Inmate testing:



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
HEALTH CARE DIVISION

COVID-19 INFORMATION | 4/2/2020

COVID-19 TESTING: INMATE REPORT

Facilities	Tested	Results Pending	Negative	Inconclusive	Positive	Number of Persons in Medical Isolation	Number of Persons in Quarantine
HCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HCCC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
KCCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MCCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCCC	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
WCCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- On 3/26/20 the individual listed under HCCC was sent to the hospital for treatment due to poor response to confirmed Influenza A. The hospital conducted a COVID-19 test as a precaution on 3/26/20. The test came back negative on 3/27/20.
- The test listed under OCCC was administered by a hospital prior to entry on 4/1/20 and is pending results. That individual is not exhibiting any symptoms. OCCC staff executed their procedures to place the individual directly into medical isolation out of an abundance of caution until outside test results are obtained.

The facilities have longstanding outbreak management plans in place to quickly identify, isolate and treat communicable diseases. They remain vigilant in their efforts to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19.

PSD adheres to the Department of Health medical guidance on testing for COVID-19, which currently recommends a testing panel be done to rule out other respiratory diseases before COVID-19 tests are considered.

Inmate Population Relief Efforts

PSD is well aware of the risks of over-population and crowding in our jails, especially during this pandemic. The Department has been following the petition from the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) to the Hawaii Supreme Court requesting release of certain inmates due to concerns of possible spread of COVID-19 to the prisons and jails. Today the court appointed a Special Master to assist all parties involved in a collaborative effort to find a resolution to the issues raised in the petition. We will await further guidance from the Special Master. The court also ordered intermittent sentence incarceration (those ordered into jail custody just on weekends) to be suspended until a judge states otherwise. ([Here is a link to the order](#))

The courts have already been collaborating with PSD to reduce the number of pre-trial jail detainees in custody.

- The Department of Public Safety has been working with our Judicial partners to implement more video conferencing of arraignment and plea (A&P) proceedings and bail motions. The video conferencing at OCCC, normally scheduled for two days a week, was successfully increased to three days a week (effective March 23) and as of March 30, is now expanded to five days a week for District and Circuit Court proceedings.
- From March 2 to April 2 there has been a substantial decrease in the jail population. This is due to the huge efforts made by the Judiciary, our local police departments and PSD's Intake Service Division as they work together to limit the number of people requiring admittance into the jails. All decreases were pursuant to independently issued court orders.

Jail Population Report			Population Decrease
Facility (Operational Capacity)	2-Mar	2-Apr	
HCCC (226)	395	336	59
KCCC (128)	143	121	22
MCCC (301)	450	351	99
OCCC (954)	1201	942	259
TOTAL	2189	1750	439

Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) update:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority's suspension of all parole hearings is extended to the end of April. All hearings previously scheduled to take place during this time frame are being rescheduled. All offenders who have already tentatively been granted release on parole will continue to be processed for release pursuant to the individual release requirements established by the parole board during their previous parole hearing.

Signs have been posted outside for parolees and inside for HPA staff with the latest scheduling and office updates. An information hotline was established with recorded updates for the general public. That number: (808) 253-1642.

Summary of previous update information issued through March:

- PSD identified 52 inmates at the Halawa Correctional Facility and 5 at the Women's Community Correctional Center who will be completing their full sentence between 3/28/20 – 6/30/20. A list has been sent to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) for its consideration.
- All inmate work furlough passes and Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI) outside community service work lines are suspended until further notice.
- All non-essential programming is temporarily suspended. (Correctional services such as: security, health care, food service, and facility operations/maintenance will continue as scheduled. Essential medical specialist transports, hospital and emergency transports will continue as needed.)
- Enhanced screening is implemented at entry points, including no-touch temperature checks and verbal health screening questions.
- Correctional facility entry suspensions include volunteers, non-essential program staff and personal inmate visitors. (Attorneys and vendors/contractors providing inmate health and safety products and services are still allowed).
- Increased inmate phone accessibility – Inmates are afforded an unlimited number of pre-paid and collect 15-minute personal phone calls. The personal call duration has been increased to allow up to 30 minutes per call.
- Free phone calls – GlobalTel Link (GTL) is providing two, free, five-minute-long calls per week for the next four weeks.

Health care staff have had continuous, open dialogue with the Department of Health (DOH), and facility staff are being briefed on protocols as the situation changes day-by-day.

Staff have been reminded to frequently wash their hands and refrain from touching their faces, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recommended guidelines. Daily emails with the latest COVID-19 information, guidance and recommendations from the CDC and from DOH are being sent to all employees to keep everyone informed.

For more information on PSD's response to COVID-19 and information detailing the efforts we have made to safeguard the inmates, staff and public, visit our webpage at:

<http://dps.hawaii.gov/blog/2020/03/17/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-resources/>

Please sign up for PSD alerts and notifications through our AlertSense notification system by going to <https://hawaiiPSD.myfreealerts.com>

Residents can download the free AlertSense mobile app for Android and Apple devices, or text their zip code to 38276 to instantly sign up.

The Public Safety Department also encourages everyone to visit the Hawai'i COVID-19 webpage for resources and the most up-to-date information on the virus at <https://HawaiiCovid19.com>. You can also get connected through 2-1-1.

(Note: schedules and information included in this news release are subject to change at a moment's notice as the overall situation and the State's response to COVID-19 evolves day-by-day.)

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