




MEMORANDUM

Date: November 24, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Attached November 24, 2020 Letter to the Director of the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry Regarding the COVID-19 Outbreak in the Arizona State Prison Complex**

Please see the attached letter, including a memorandum to Deputy County Administrator Dr. Garcia and Health Department Director Dr. Cullen related to COVID-19 infections and outbreaks at both the Federal and State prisons located on Wilmot Road. Both of these facilities have had significant outbreaks. Most recently, the more severe outbreak occurred in the Federal system and we are seeing a resurgence of infections in the State prison.

In communication with the Federal Warden, there is an agreement to follow the protocols outlined in the November 19, 2020 communication. We are now asking the Arizona State Department of Corrections Director to follow the same protocols in preventing and/or reducing the spread of COVID-19.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

November 24, 2020

David Shinn, Director
Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry
1601 W. Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: **COVID-19 Outbreak in the Arizona State Prison Complex**

Dear Mr. Shinn:

There have been at least two significant outbreaks of COVID-19 in the Arizona State Prison Complex. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have recorded a total number of 1,015 infections among inmates and at least 126 cases among employees. The federal facility on Wilmot Road has also recently experienced a significant outbreak that is being actively managed; but the total number of detainees impacted in that facility since the beginning of the pandemic has been 653.

Enclosed is a communication I directed to our public health agency on this subject. It would be appropriate to develop protocols that would comply with these requirements to minimize the exposure of the community to COVID-19 infections that may originate within these facilities.

It is important that both inmates and staff be regularly tested for COVID-19, that there be adequate personal protective equipment distributed to both inmates and staff, appropriate protocols associated with isolation of infected individuals and strict protocols and requirements for the wearing of masks, physical distancing, etc.

I ask for your assistance in ensuring these protections are implemented at the earliest possible date at this State facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Enclosure

c: The Honorable Doug Ducey, Governor, State of Arizona
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 19, 2020

To: Francisco García, MD, MPH
Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical
Officer, Health and Community Services

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Terry Cullen, MD, MS
Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

Re: **Federal Wilmot Prison COVID-19 Infections as well as the State Facility on Wilmot**

I appreciate the information discussed recently on the current state of COVID-19 infections at the Federal Wilmot Prison. As indicated please request action and additional information from the managers of the facility to determine whether or not they will voluntarily comply with a number of our requests to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within the facility but also to their staff and hence into the community. These actions are:

- Agree to a voluntarily quarantine for 14 days which simply means they will not accept and or transfer any inmates into or from the facility during this period;
- After the quarantine period ends agree to accept inmates who can be isolated from the general population for a 14-day period;
- Develop and require personal protection equipment and sanitation protocols that require all staff to wear masks at all times, physically distance by six feet when not wearing a mask such as during breaks for meals, and continually disinfect frequently touched surfaces;
- Require both staff and contractor to be tested by the PCR method for COVID-19;
- Test all remaining untested inmates for COVID-19;
- Develop a COVID-19 management plan for implementation using the protocols established by the Pima County Adult Detention Center that has not had a single COVID-19 inmate transmission.

Please request the voluntary compliance with these items for both the Federal and State facility. The recent Governor's press conference seemed to indicate testing for all inmate state facilities. Please advise of compliance agreements at both facilities, if not, I will appropriately elevate the issue.

CHH/dym

c: Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Michael Racy, Racy Associates Inc.
Andrew Flagg, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney, Pima County Attorney's Office