

Durham County Detention Center
Mass Testing Briefing
August 24, 2020

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing is to inform the Durham County Board of County Commissioners of the ongoing efforts to mitigate the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) outbreak within the confines of the Durham County Detention Center. This situation is critical. The information in this briefing is to provide the governing board with information in regards to what steps have been taken to date, and too, recommend a strategy for future mass testing of those that are housed and working inside the detention center.

II. CURRENT SITUATION:

On August 7, 2020, the Durham County Detention Center received information that a person housed in the facility had symptoms of the COVID-19. The person was tested that day and a positive result returned on August 8th. On August 8th all persons that were housed in the same pod with the positive subject were tested per protocol. These tests identified an additional seven positive cases. By August 10th all persons housed within the detention center were tested, resulting in a total of 21 confirmed cases throughout the facility – mainly on the fourth floor of the secure housing area. On the August 17th all residents located in those PODs where positive results were indicated, were re-tested. All results have since been returned with no additional positive cases reported. To date the total number of detainees tested is 294. Additionally, all employees to date have been tested to include vendors and other county staff. In total, to the best of my knowledge, five (5) county employees returned positive results.

Additionally, within the past two weeks there have been positive COVID-19 cases reported in various offices housed within the courthouse, to include

the Clerk of Court's Office, Magistrate's Office, the DA's Office to name a few of the ones that I am currently aware of. The virus is not limited to the detention center as I have heard some mention previously.

The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in the closing of some courthouse operations, that include canceling court, temporarily suspending magistrate functions [in the building], and reducing access to other key functions contained inside the courthouse. Nonetheless, the courthouse has remained open to the general public. This past weekend, working with General Services, a "deep cleaning" was conducted using a contractor certified to apply a chemical solution said to kill up to 99.9% of germs, including COVID-19. A second phase is scheduled for Friday, August 28, 2020.

Cleaning procedures inside the detention center have been in place since March. Staff clean every 4 hours and also after inmates come out of their cell; such as Court, Attorney Visits, phone usage, and so on. We have changed from the Hi-Con 64 to HDQ Neutral chemical compound, as it is stated to be more effective against viruses.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

In coordination with Health and Human Services, Risk Management and *WellPath* the following recommendations are suggested for moving forward:

- Re-Test all those housed within the facility until "0" cases are reported.
- Re-Test **all** employees that work with the detention center.
- Moving forward, test all residents transferring from the quarantine POD to general population. (on average 73 per month)
- If any resident leaves the confines of the detention center for any reason, to include court, once returned, placed in 14 day quarantine.

- Require a negative test result for all new detention employees, employees of vendors, contractors, and all other persons who work within the confines of the secure area, who have tested positive, or, new-hires, at least seven days prior to first day of work.
- Conduct periodic testing of 20 of these workers every two weeks.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION:

- Continue testing all persons housed within the facility by *WellPath* Medical Staff. Testing will be completed in the same manner as the prior mass testing until such time results yield no positive cases. Once this goal is obtained, test only those preparing to leave quarantine.
- Conduct mass re-testing of all workers in the facility. The testing site will be located at the Durham County Sheriff's Office employee parking lot, commonly known as the "Flat Lot". Testing should be implemented between the hours of 0700-0900 on two different days (back to back) ensuring complete coverage of all four security squads (day and night shifts) and those that work administrative schedules (0740-1700). The testing site, although outside will be walk up service. The Durham County Sheriff's Office Logistics Officer, Detention Command, Public Health and Emergency Management will plan the event. Employees will be scheduled according to their shift assignment to appear at the specified time.
- All new workers approved to work in the facility will be required to produce a negative test result at least seven days prior to employment. Those employed by the county will utilize an approved vendor either by contract or other approved testing facility at no cost to the employee. Those that are employed by contractors or vendors will be required to produce a negative test result at least seven days prior to working in the facility. Costs associated with all tests on contractors and or vendors will be the responsibility of the person and or employer of the contractor or vendor. The testing source

must be an approved site by Durham County Public Health. This may require various contract amendments to achieve this objective.

- Periodic testing of 20 workers every two weeks will be conducted at an approved vendor of Durham County or an approved testing site of Public Health.

V. ASSOCIATED COSTS:

(Employees, Costs provided by Public Health)

The per test cost:

- Duke (Holton Center) - \$270
- *FastMed* - \$75 + LabCorp \$175 = \$250
- Public Health - \$175

Recommended Staff Testing:

- Sheriff's Detention Staff – 210
- General Services – 30
- CJRC – 20
- Youth Home – 25
- Total of 285 County Employees

Option 1.

If we rounded to an even 300 employees the cost per testing cycle every **two weeks** will break down as follows:

- Duke = \$81,000
- *FastMed* = \$75,000
- Public Health = \$30,000

Option 2.

Periodic testing of 20 workers every **two weeks** will be conducted at an approved vendor of Durham County or an approved testing site of Public Health.

- Duke = \$5,400.00
- *FastMed* = \$5,000.00
- Public Health = \$3,500.00

(Detention Population, Costs provided by *WellPath* in coordination with Public Health)

For a ADP of 400

- Test Kit - \$11,600.00
- Lab Cost - \$ \$20,524.00
- Provider Cost (approx.) based on 15 min/per test over above normal working hours = \$14,375.00
- PPE Kits- \$2,041.80 (cost to *WellPath*)

Total Cost less PPE cost = \$46, 740.00" (\$117.00 per person)

Total Cost if mass testing was completed today with a population of 257 = \$30,069.00

Moving forward, test all residents transferring from the quarantine POD to general population. (On average 73 per month) = **\$8,541 per month.**

VI. SUMMARY:

As the SARS-CoV-2 Virus (COVID-19) has dramatically effected the world's population and congregant housing facilities across the nation. Now that we have experienced an outbreak we must be steadfast in

ensuring we reduce the risk within the facility. Although, internally we have implemented significant procedures throughout from day-one to keep the virus out, the inevitable has occurred. Our next approach, as described in this document, is to increase testing so we can identify, mitigate and hopefully prevent future outbreaks. It is my responsibility, as the Sheriff of Durham County, to ensure the safety and secure custody of all those housed within the facility, and too, provide a safe work environment for my staff. Ultimately it is our shared responsibility, as governing officials, to ensure all human beings - whether inmate, officer or contract worker- are confident that we work in an environment free of fear from this virus. I understand that nothing is 100%, but we must come together and get as close to 100% as possible.