



COVID-19 CORRECTIONS FAQs

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office *FAQs for Corrections Deputies and Staff*

How is COVID-19 spread?

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths, eyes, or noses of people who are nearby, spread by hand contact, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

How can I protect myself while on duty?

The main source of transmission is through small droplets produced by coughing or sneezing. If you are able, maintain a 6-foot distance from the subject you are interacting with.

- **If I am supervising someone who is visibly ill, what should I do?** If they are exhibiting symptoms, placing a procedure mask (surgical mask), if available, on the subject voluntarily should keep droplets from spreading. ***If the subject is combative, a spit sock may be used in accordance with agency policies.***
 - **Eye protection** is also recommended when dealing with a symptomatic subject. Utilizing good wrap around eyewear similar to range safety glasses or a face shield that covers the eye area will help provide personal protection. Goggles that create a seal around the eyes are optimal. Wash your eyewear with soap and water and completely dry after your contact with a symptomatic person.
 - **Use nitrile gloves** when handling subjects as the other hazards beyond COVID-19 are still of concern.
- **After having contact** with a symptomatic person, refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Wash your hands and any other exposed areas thoroughly with soap and warm water. Use a hand sanitizer in lieu of washing until you can get to soap and water.



- **If you are dealing with a subject who is NON-SYMPTOMATIC**, you are not required to use PPE. Remember, there may be difficulties in ordering/obtaining PPE in large quantities, so please use the PPE only when you deem necessary.

What should be done during transport?

If you are transporting a symptomatic (cough, shortness of breath, fever) subject in the patrol car, lowering passenger windows to increase air flow is good for decreasing chances of transmission. Ensure that the inmate being transported is also wearing a mask.

What should be done during hospital watch of inmates that are suspected, or are confirmed to have COVID-19?

There may be times that corrections staff are required to work hospital watch on inmates that are suspected, or have been confirmed, to have the COVID-19 virus. Staff will ensure that all security practices are maintained while limiting their chance for exposure. Staff will ensure that the inmate is properly secured to the hospital bed as is standard practice. Staff will then position themselves near the door of the hospital room giving themselves the recommended 6ft of separation from the inmate. This may require staff to position themselves either in the open doorway or just outside the room. If staff are required to interact with the inmate they should ensure they wear appropriate PPE.

How should transport cars be cleaned after a transport of a symptomatic person?

It's unclear exactly how long COVID-19 can remain on a surface. Wiping down and cleaning commonly touched surfaces helps to prevent the spread of illnesses like COVID-19 and the flu. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the subject or materials contaminated during transport of persons should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Check your disinfectant products that have notations of working on coronaviruses (COVID-19 isn't the first coronavirus we have dealt with.)

How should I clean my uniforms?

Uniforms should be laundered as usual. If you have external gear that has been exposed, wiping or spraying external gear with a 60-70% alcohol solution should be sufficient to kill viruses.



What can staff do to protect themselves and their families and friends when they go home?

Prior to going home, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water. Consider washing your face as well. If possible, have clean civilian clothes at your work location to change into prior to going home. If you must wear uniform gear home, change prior to having close personal contact with your family members, especially if you have very young, elderly, or family members with compromised immune systems at home.

Do staff need procedure masks for daily operations?

You do not need to be wearing a mask for daily operations or contact with people who are non-symptomatic. Increasing personal space (as we normally do for safe contact distance) will aid in decreasing the chances of spread. If a person has symptoms or is coughing, it is best to have them wear a mask to avoid coughing droplets towards you.

What will happen if we get more cases in Oregon and this becomes widespread?

Follow the guidance of public health authorities. If you become ill, please stay home. If you are not ill, continue to maintain distance between yourself and the adults in custody (6 feet when possible), continue to practice good hygiene with handwashing and avoid face touching, and use PPE mentioned above when available and when you think is necessary. Since we are all essential employees, prepare your families for contingencies for child care and other home concerns in cases where schools or daycare facilities close.

What is social distancing?

Social distancing means remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.



Good reminders!

- Stay home if you feel ill.
- Flu is still circulating in the community. Get a flu shot if you haven't done so already
- Practice good hand hygiene by [washing your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Corrections Staff can mask (spit or procedure mask) the person they are working with
- Cover eyes, nose, and mouth when working with an ill subject. Use a mask with a face shield or other eye protection, if possible.
- Outdoor exposures are lower risk
- When transporting subjects, roll down windows to allow air circulation
- Stay informed
 - multco.us/covid19,
 - [Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 FAQ page](#)
[Center for Disease Control](#) COVID-19 webpage for latest news.

For Information: Enhanced cleaning at all Corrections Facilities continues on an ongoing basis and Griffin Bros is effective in killing coronaviruses. Each facility is being provided additional cleaning supplies and specific cleaning missions will be conducted in each facility on an ongoing basis.

This guidance applies to corrections staff who anticipate close contact with persons with confirmed or possible COVID-19 in the course of their work. This FAQ will continue to be updated as more information is available, but this should give you some basic knowledge of the COVID-19 virus and serve as a guide for staff possibly working around potential symptomatic persons.

