

OUR DEMANDS

(1) Reduce the number of people who are incarcerated or detained.

- Instruct ACC to ignore technical violations of probation and parole rules and recommend reinstatement or dismissal of a motion to revoke probation for anyone who has already had a petition to revoke probation filed for technical violations.
- Lift all white warrants from parole based on technical violations.
- Release all people who are eligible for release pursuant to the Emergency Powers Act.
- Identify and release or transfer to home confinement individuals within ADC and ACC facilities who are in a higher risk category, including but not limited to: (1) individuals older than 50 years of age; (2) would have already been released had they been arrested under current sentencing guidelines; (3) pregnant; (4) are immunocompromised and/or have a serious underlying medical condition including respiratory conditions, heart disease or other heart conditions, chronic liver or kidney disease, renal failure (including hepatitis and dialysis patients), diabetes, epilepsy, hypertension, blood disorders (including sickle cell disease), or an inherited metabolic disorder, have had or are at risk of stroke.
- In compliance with mandatory victim notification, release all individuals who have reached their parole eligibility (P/E) date or transfer eligibility (T/E) date, regardless of ADC class or the need to go through typical parole processes.

(2) Ensure that all people who are incarcerated are housed in safe and sanitary conditions.

- Train staff and incarcerated people on how to disinfect surfaces in a manner that is effective against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Require ADC and ACC to thoroughly clean and disinfect at least three times a day with EPA-registered disinfectants that are effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, as appropriate for the surface: (1) all areas where people who have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been suspected of having COVID-19, spent time, including but not limited to cells, bathrooms, and common areas; and (2) all frequently touched surfaces, including but not limited to doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, countertops, toilets, toilet handles, recreation equipment, kiosks, and telephones.

- Ensure that all individuals held in ADC and ACC facilities have free and sufficient access to: (1) hand sanitizer consistent with the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention's Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities; (2) hot water; (3) hand soap sufficient to permit frequent hand washing; (4) paper towels; (5) facial tissues; (6) cleaning implements such as sponges or brushes; and (7) EPA-registered disinfectants that are effective against COVID-19 infection.
- Provide daily access to showers and clean laundry, including clean towels after each shower.

(3) Provide prompt, responsive, and appropriate medical care as needed for all physical and mental health needs.

- Ensure that prisoners and residents are seen on the same day of their request, and immediately in emergency situations, especially when breathing difficulty is expressed. Guarantee that there are sufficient medical professionals available at all times, so as to be able to fulfill this need.
- Permanently eliminate medical copays for all incarcerated persons.
- Establish a written policy to ensure that incarcerated people will not be retaliated against for reporting COVID-19 symptoms or expressing concern for their health and wellbeing.

(4) Enact policies and procedures that help promote the health of incarcerated persons and limit the spread of COVID-19 within units and facilities.

- Begin immediate testing of all incarcerated persons, prioritizing those who are observed to show known symptoms of COVID-19, report symptoms to staff, have had contact with an incarcerated person or staff member who is known or suspected to have COVID-19 and/or request to be tested.
- Allow persons held in solitary confinement to be transferred to the general population, if they so choose, repurposing those spaces for the containment and/or treatment of COVID-19 positive prisoners.
- Do not allow COVID-19 positive individuals to be moved throughout the facility in a way that shares space with individuals who have tested negative for the virus.
- Ensure that individuals identified as having COVID-19 or having been exposed to COVID-19 are properly quarantined in a non-punitive setting, with continued access to health care, showers, recreation, mental health services, reading materials, commissary, phone and video visitation with loved ones, communication with counsel, and personal property.
- Position all beds with ADC and ACC facilities at least six feet apart.

- Immediately provide clean filtered face masks for all individuals within each ADC and ACC facility and ensure the masks are properly laundered with replacements as required by best practices.
- Ensure that all incarcerated persons have daily access to media, pertinent health, and safety information regarding COVID-19, including the number of incarcerated persons, residents, and staff known or suspected of having COVID-19 in each ADC and ACC facility.

(5) Take action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staff and outside contractors.

- Do not allow staff or outside contractors who have tested COVID-19 positive, are suspected to have COVID-19, or have had contact with someone known to have, or suspected of having, COVID-19 to enter any facility until such time as they have been re-tested and shown to no longer carry the virus.
- Prohibit staff and contractors from working in multiple units.
- Require that all ADC and ACC staff wear personal protective equipment consistent with the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention’s Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities, including masks and gloves, when interacting with visitors and incarcerated individuals or when touching surfaces in common areas.
- Train staff on how to properly don and doff personal protective equipment.
- Provide an anonymous and independent mechanism for incarcerated individuals to report grievances and staff who violate these guidelines so that appropriate corrective action may be taken.

(6) Don’t make this time more stressful for families than absolutely necessary.

- Provide unlimited access to free phone calls and video visitation so that families can maintain contact throughout the pandemic.
- Lift all restrictions for those who have lost phone privileges.
- Provide all persons held in ADC and ACC facilities with a free tablet and eliminate all fees associated with their usage.
- Provide rapid and transparent communication with family members or other designated individuals when a detained or incarcerated person is tested for COVID-19, upon receiving their results, and in cases of medical quarantine, hospitalization, and, sadly, in an untimely death.

(7) Eliminate unnecessary face-to-face contact for justice-involved people.

- Minimize or eliminate all in-person requirements for supervision whenever possible, despite an individual's supervision level.
- Suspend supervision fees for individuals on probation and parole until there have been no active cases of COVID-19 in the state of Arkansas for at least six months.

(8) Provide for maximum transparency.

- Release and make public, the daily number of staff, contractors, prisoners and residents of ADC and ACC who are suspected of contracting, screened for, found positive with, hospitalized for, and have died from COVID-19, categorizing them by unit/facility, disaggregated by race.
- Ensure that members of the press are able to speak with incarcerated persons in a confidential manner.