



ALBEMARLE-CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL JAIL

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Colonel Martin Kumer
Superintendent

Update: COMMUNITY COVID CONCERNS

Updated January 20, 2022 at 9:30am

Superintendent Kumer's responses to ACRJ concerns expressed by the community. These responses were followed by a press release.

COVID Cases Updated:

- 1) As of this morning there are 41 Inmate active cases of COVID down from a high of 65
 - a. 23 Inmates have cleared the virus and are no longer considered contagious. Several more are expected to clear in the next few days.
- 2) As of this morning there are six staff active cases of COVID. Three more are expected to return to normal duties by this weekend.

Heating Concerns Update

- 3) With regards to the heat, my Chief of Facilities, Captain Thomas, tested the heat on both sides of GL housing area at 12:43 today. One side measured 75 degrees using an infrared thermometer and the other side measured 69 degrees. As Captain Thomas was walking out the inmates asked Captain Thomas NOT to touch the heat, they were "good".
 - a. Update: There was reported heating issue that a housing area was TOO hot. That will be addressed. There are no other reported heating issues as of this update.
- 4) I have confirmed that we have ample cleaning supplies that are approved by the CDC to kill the virus that causes COVID and they are being distributed daily and were distributed today. Per the DOC Life Health and Safety standards they cannot remain in the cell or housing unit. They are distributed once daily. We will begin distributing them twice per day, tomorrow as an added precaution.
- 5) With regard to hand sanitizer not being available to inmates. This is accurate. We do not supply hand sanitizer to inmates for the following reason.
 - a) CDC recommends washing hands with soap and water whenever possible because handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs and chemicals on hands. But if soap and water are not available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can help you avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. We do not provide inmates with alcohol in any form. There are many recovering alcoholics in the facility who would consume the sanitizer.

The guidance for effective handwashing and use of hand sanitizer in community settings was developed based on data from a number of studies."

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/show-me-the-science-hand-sanitizer.html#:~:text=CDC%20recommends%20washing,number%20of%20studies>.

ALL inmates have access to soap and water at ALL times.

6) We do not issue medical grade masks to inmates since for them to be effective they would literally have to sleep with them on their face and maintain the effective seal around their face. The minute they remove the mask to eat, drink or shower they will have completely eliminated any benefit from the mask and have contaminated the housing area. The inmate population does not currently wear the masks they are provided. Today we viewed all of the housing area cameras at 12:55pm, January 18, and no inmate was visible wearing a mask in the entire population.

7) I do not have the authority to release any individual from incarceration. We have and will continue to work with the court to reduce the population through the use of HEI as safely and effectively as we can. The population as of today is 265, the lowest it has been in over 25 years.

Update: Population is 271.

8) We are operating under the assumption that every inmate and staff has COVID; it is referred to as universal precautions.

9) A significant portion of the trusty POD has tested positive for COVID. We had a secondary list of trusty approved and separated from that POD for just an emergency. It is not uncommon that a housing unit would test positive due to the nature of how COVID spreads and especially the Omicron variant.

a. UPDATE: The majority of our trusty population have cleared the virus and have returned to normal duties as of this update.

10) We have plenty of medical staff on hand who visit the housing areas to monitor for symptoms.