



April 6, 2020

Darryl Grennell
Mayor, City of Natchez
124 S Pearl Street
Natchez, MS 39120

Mayor Grennell:

During this unprecedented time, the top priority of our team at the Adams County Correctional Center (ACCC) is the health and safety of those entrusted to our care, our employees and our community. I wanted to reach out to our local leadership both to assure you of the comprehensive nature of our COVID-19 plans and to dispel some misinformation that has been circulating about our efforts.

ACCC and CoreCivic Management of COVID-19

Let me begin with the steps our facility and our company, CoreCivic, are taking to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We have:

- Implemented current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization for COVID-19.
- Revised policies and procedures to include best practices for the prevention and handling of novel coronavirus. (CoreCivic began plan development in January.)
- Purchased COVID-19 testing kits.
- Communicated best practices for personal hygiene to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Urged employees to stay home if they are ill and expanded PTO policies for sick employees or those caring for ill family members.
- Developed plan to separate high-risk individuals who are more susceptible to COVID-19.
- Secured additional stores of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Additionally, at the direction of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is our government partner at ACCC, all social visitation has been suspended until further notice. This policy went into effect March 13, 2020.

Protecting Employee Health and Safety

Our employees are on the frontlines of this effort, and we're grateful for the work they're doing every day to keep themselves, those in our care and this community safe. All employees are screened upon entering the facility. This process includes both a thermometer check and answering a series of questions. Methods to prevent the spread of

COVID-19 are being widely communicated to the staff. Staff are also trained on symptoms and proper screening measures. Good hygiene practices are actively encouraged, and ample supplies have been provided. Additionally, as described above, PTO policies have been expanded for sick employees or those caring for a family member.

Social Distancing

Staff routinely encourage appropriate social distancing and model that behavior for the detainees in our care. We also communicate to everyone in our facility about social distancing through regular town hall meetings, posted flyers, information presented over the closed-circuit television system and the routine instruction of staff.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Consistent with CDC recommendations, PPE such as face masks (cloth/paper) are allowed to be worn by staff within the facility. Disposable gloves are readily available for conducting searches and handling property. Staff working at the front lobby screening site wear a face mask, eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face), and disposable gloves.

Arrival of New Detainees at the Facility

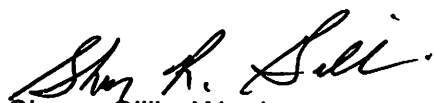
All decisions regarding the admission of new detainees to ACCC is solely at the discretion of our government partners at ICE. It's important to understand that all persons entering the facility are being carefully screened, and there are currently no positive cases at the facility. Additionally, as ICE's Southern Region Communications Director Bryan Cox recently told the *Natchez Democrat*, "[ICE] limited detention post-arrest nationwide two weeks ago to criminal offenders and mandatory detention cases."

Release of Detainees

As with the arrival of new detainees, decisions about detainee releases are solely at the discretion of ICE. It is very important to understand, however, that every detainee who is released from ACCC must have a release plan in place – no one is released without one. Additionally, detainees are only released in one of the following three ways: a family member picks them up; a taxi is called to transport them to the bus station or airport; or the support groups or churches that make their bond either pick them up personally or send transportation (taxis or vans) to pick them up.

We appreciate the strong partnership with Natchez and the broader Adams County community, and we're working hard to ensure everyone's health and safety. If you have any questions or concerns about our efforts, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Shawn Gillis, Warden
Adams County Correctional Center