



Frequently Asked Questions PANDEMIC PROCEDURES

1. How many inmates besides the two who have tested positive are in isolation?

Answer: We isolate inmates for various medical reasons. There are inmates that may exhibit symptoms of covid-19 such as fever, but it may be related to an underlying condition or an unrelated infection. If they have been transferred from another state, we isolate them for 14 days before moving them into their unit. After an arrestee is processed through booking, we isolate them for 14 days before moving them into their unit. **Intake testing:** Each detainee is tested for covid-19 before moving into general population. As of 7/31/2020 CCSO 651 inmates have been tested at intake for covid-19.

2. When was the second test that came back positive administered?

Answer: This test was administered 4/9/2020

3. "Our current inmate population is approximately 1260 (as of 8/03/2020)." Is there really not an exact count?

Answer: The inmate count within the jail varies from hour to hour depending on arrestees processing into the jail, inmates bonding out, their jail sentence ending, transfers, where they are being held (Georgia Regional, another facility, etc.).

4. How many inmates have been tested in total?

Answer: As of 4/17/2020: 7 inmates have been tested for covid-19 to date: 2 positive, 2 negative, 3 pending result.

Update: As of 5/1/2020: 11 inmates have been tested for covid-19 to date: 2 positive, 9 negative, 0 pending, 1 recovered

Update: As of 5/27/2020: 153 inmates have been tested for covid-19 to date: 4 positive, 123 negative, 27 pending, 2 recovered

Update: As of 6/15/2020: 307 inmates have been tested for covid-19 to date: 4 positive, 275 negative, 32 pending, 4 recovered

Update: As of 8/3/2020: 687 inmates have been tested for covid-19 to date: 9 positive, 660 negative, 18 pending, 7 recovered

5. How many CCSO employees have been tested?

Answer: As of 4/17/2020:11 staffers have been tested for covid-19 to date: 2 positive, 7 negative, 2 pending, 9 isolated at home that may have been exposed.

Update: As of 5/1/2020: 18 staffers have been tested for covid-19 to date: 2 positive, 11 negative, 4 pending, 0 recovered, 8 isolated at home that may have been exposed.

Update: As of 5/27/2020: 38 staffers have been tested for covid-19 to date: 2 positive, 32 negative, 3 pending, 2 recovered, 1 isolated at home that may have been exposed.

Update: As of 6/15/2020: 42 staffers have been tested for covid-19 to date: 2 positive, 40 negative, 0 pending, 2 recovered, 0 isolated at home that may have been exposed.

Update: As of 8/03/2020: 112 staffers have been tested for covid-19 to date: 12 positive, 86 negative, 8 pending, 5 recovered, 1 isolated at home that may have been exposed.

6. What day was the first covid-19 positive inmate quarantined?

Answer: 4/5/2020

7. Was the inmate moving around the facility as they normally would before the test?

Answer: Due to the pandemic, we are mandating social distancing whenever possible. Inmates have time outside of their cells throughout the day, in smaller sections at a time to allow enough space to maintain a minimum of 6-feet apart from each other.

8. How many cells/units does the Chatham County Detention Center have?

Answer: 2433

9. What are the dimensions of the cells? (Feet, Width, Height)

Answer: The cells are designed to meet the federal government specifications and guidelines

10. What are the dimensions of the beds? (Feet, Width, Height)

Answer: The beds are designed to meet the federal government specifications and guidelines

11. Why are the inmates not given masks?

Answer: Masks were distributed to all inmates beginning 4/16/2020. All inmates are required to wear masks outside of their cells. Arrestees are issued masks at booking.

12. Why don't inmates have hand sanitizer?

Answer: Inmates are provided anti-bacterial soap. Hand washing is recommended by the Center for Disease Control to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

13. On average, how many individuals are there to a cell?

Answer: Intake has one per cell. As a precautionary measure, we are isolating each new inmate from general population for 14 days and testing them for COVID-19 before moving them into general population. General population has two inmates to a cell; however, some cells in general population have one inmate.

14. How many inmates are in a unit?

Answer: As of 4/16/2020

Unit 1	approx. 153
Unit 2	approx. 144
Unit 3	approx. 184
Unit 4	approx. 130
Unit 6	approx. 233
Unit 7	approx. 245
Unit 8	approx. 7
Unit 9	approx. 85
Med	approx. 13
R&D	approx. 1

Update: as of 5/1/2020

Unit 1	approx. 194
Unit 2	approx. 155
Unit 3	approx. 185
Unit 4	approx. 175
Unit 6	approx. 238
Unit 7	approx. 127
Unit 8	approx. 0
Unit 9	approx. 95
Med	approx. 10
R&D	approx. 4
GA Regional:	approx. 16

Update: as of 5/26/2020

Unit 1	approx. 185
Unit 2	approx. 191
Unit 3	approx. 180
Unit 4	approx. 175
Unit 6	approx. 231
Unit 7	approx. 124
Unit 8	approx. 0
Unit 9	approx. 94
Med	approx. 14
R&D	approx. 8
GA Regional:	approx. 16

Update: as of 6/15/2020

Unit 1	approx. 146
Unit 2	approx. 173
Unit 3	approx. 185
Unit 4	approx. 175
Unit 6	approx. 241
Unit 7	approx. 144
Unit 8	approx. 0
Unit 9	approx. 131
Med	approx. 15
R&D	approx. 6
GA Regional:	approx. 13

Update: as of 8/03/2020

Unit 1	approx. 201
Unit 2	approx. 176
Unit 3	approx. 205
Unit 4	approx. 204
Unit 5	approx. 283
Unit 6	approx. 139
Unit 7	approx. 5
Unit 8	approx. 0
Unit 9	approx. 0
Med	approx. 15
R&D	approx. 22
GA Regional:	approx. 20

15. How do you test those who complain about having and/or show the symptoms of COVID-19?

Answer: We follow the instruction of our medical staff and the Georgia Department of Health

16. What methods are you all using to test individuals who may be asymptomatic?

Answer: We follow the instruction of our medical staff and the Georgia Department of Health

17. How often are you sanitizing the facility and the amenities (i.e phones, kiosks, showers etc.)?

Answer: Daily

18. Within the isolation cells, how many beds are there?

Answer: 2

19. Where are the isolation cells located?

Answer: Throughout the jail.

20. If more individuals test positive than you have room for in your isolation cells, how would you quarantine them? Is there a plan in place?

Answer: We quarantine the entire unit. Yes, there is a plan in place.

21. Who/What is your Medical Staff comprised of (i.e. PCP, CAN, etc.)?

Answer: Contact the Chatham County Manager's Office to request copies of the RFP and RFQ

22. Once an individual is quarantined for X number of days, do you administer another test to ensure that they are "cured"?

Answer: Yes, two tests are administered a minimum of 24-hours apart.

23. Were the (first 2 cases) two individuals who tested positive in the same unit?

Answer: Yes, they were in the same cell.

24. Once the first individual tested positive, did you test those who were in the same unit?

Answer: Following the instruction of the Georgia Department of Health, some inmates were tested and others were isolated.

25. How many days, on average, does it take the test results to come back?

Answer: 2 – 14 days

26. In the time that you all were waiting for the first individual's test results to come back, was he/she able to go about their daily routines? (refers to the first two cases)

Answer: No, they were immediately given medical care and kept in isolation.

27. What about the second individual (refers to the first two cases) (Was the second inmate that tested positive able to go about their daily routines)?

Answer: No, they were immediately given medical care and kept in isolation.

28. Can I enter the building to pay a bond for an inmate?

Answer: You may enter the main lobby with a mask or face covering (*covering your mouth and nose*). You must have your temperature checked at the entrance. Your temperature must not be above 100.3 to enter. If you do not have a mask or face covering, you will be asked to leave and may return when you are wearing one.

There is no seating available. You may pay the bond at the cashier station and exit the building. If you need to wait, you may do so outside in your vehicle or outside at a minimum of 6-feet away from other individuals.

29. Why are the individuals being held in their cells for approximately 23 hours per day?

Answer: Inmates are not held in their cells for 23-hours a day unless there is disciplinary action due to the behavior of an inmate; they are able to have free time periodically outside of their cells in the common area of their unit and in the outdoor recreational area throughout the day. The inmates are out in small groups to mandate physical distancing of 6-feet from each other. Arrestees are isolated for 14 days and tested for covid-19 before moved into general population. Once they have cleared the 14-day isolation period showing no symptoms and are tested and confirmed negative for covid-19. There is always a time set for disciplinary lock-down; there is never an “indefinite” lock-down.

30. Why hasn't my loved one/family member been released from the Chatham County Jail?

Answer: To learn the legal status of your family member or loved one, contact their attorney. The Chatham County judicial system, the Chatham County district attorney's office and attorneys are working to process nonviolent offenders. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office receives a court order regarding the facilitation of an inmate's release.

Inmates do not leave the facility as a precautionary measure for trials, hearings, meetings with attorneys. These proceedings/meetings are now conducted over the phone or video. Only authorized personnel allowed into the facility after having their temperature taken.

31. The Governor of Georgia has lifted many restrictions, is the jail doing anything differently?

Answer: No, we continue to monitor the data related to covid-19 daily and are maintaining the strict safety protocols put in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

32. When are you opening your facilities to normal access?

Answer: We will continue to monitor the data and state of our community, staff and inmates and make the determination where and when to change the current safety/health precautions and procedures.

33. Since the Visitor's Center is closed, how do I communicate with an inmate in jail?

Answer: Until further notice, the online communication provider is allotting time to each inmate per week at no charge. Please follow this link and the instructions on the site:

<https://deposits.jailatm.com/webdeposits/>

To schedule a video call: www.mticonnex.us

34. "Inmates at Sheriff Wilcher's jail in Chatham County Georgia are being confined to their cells for 23 hours a day every day indefinitely. I have filed and had some success filing 1983 cases against jails in Georgia. And I cannot get the ACLU to return my pleas for help let alone to assist inmates at jails being confined to their cells with a roommate for 23 hours a day indefinitely."

Response: Inmates are not held in their cells for 23-hours a day unless there is disciplinary action due to the behavior of an inmate; they are able to have free time periodically outside of their cells in the common area of their unit and in the outdoor recreational area throughout the day. The inmates are out in small groups to mandate physical distancing of 6-feet from each other. Arrestees are isolated for 14

days and tested for covid-19 before moved into general population. Once they have cleared the 14-day isolation period showing no symptoms and are tested and confirmed negative for covid-19. There is always a time set for disciplinary lock-down; there is never an “indefinite” lock-down.

35. “So last year he banned books, and the ACLU had to step on. It seems like an issue if they are needed again, just a year later.”

Response: Books were not banned at the Chatham County Detention Center. A restructuring of the book system went under review, but inmates did not stop receiving books. There is a limit on the number of books an inmate can have in their cell. Following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the Georgia Department of Public Health at the on-set of the pandemic, the detention center placed a hold on all materials mailed to the jail. However, after new information released regarding the transmission of COVID-19, the hold on the mail lifted.

36. “Is this in response to COVID or he it been an established practice?”

Answer: From the onset of the pandemic the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office and Detention Center has implemented covid-19 pandemic precautions for the safety and well-being of our inmates, staff, families and the community. The restrictions, protocols and procedures put in place are following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Public Health and our contracted medical staff.

37. “I started asking all my clients during video conferences. Not all of them volunteered it, actually only 1 did in passing. I want to say 3 weeks ago at the minimum it started. I’m not certain it’s everyone but it’s been consistent with 3 different clients of mine. Hopefully Wilcher sees this and starts to change things.”

Response: The first news release announcing a change in our protocols in response to the pandemic went out on March 11, 2020. Please view the video statement here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lbuy_S6zjM&feature=youtu.be

38. “Have they got enough TVs?”

Answer: There are two televisions in each wing within each unit of general population.

39. Are you offering background checks and fingerprinting services?

Answer: Background checks are available by mail. Forms and instructions are available on our website: www.chathamsheriff.org
Fingerprinting is available by appointment only, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call 912-652-7753 to schedule an appointment. If you need fingerprinting for court processing, call 912-652-7753 and request fingerprints for court processing. Court processing fingerprints will be done by appointment only, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information on COVID-19: Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

For more information on the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office: #CCSOHealth
www.chathamsheriff.org

Chatham County Sheriff’s Office Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCountySheriff>

Chatham County Sheriff’s Office YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwxmOR2drkPhR4E_UccANw

Contact: Parla Parker, Public Information Officer, piparker@chathamcounty.org | 912.660.9571