



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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March 9, 2020

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Mr. Anthony Annucci
Acting Commissioner, NYS DOCCS
1220 Washington Ave; Building 9
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Mr. Annucci:

This correspondence is to outline previous conversations with the Department regarding NYS COPBA's concerns related to the possible exposure and spread of the coronavirus within the state's prison system.

As was discussed, the union is requesting a moratorium on visitation during the current outbreak. As you are aware, the incubation period for the virus prior to manifestation of symptoms presents the opportunity to unknowingly introduce the virus into facilities. As such, it is the union's position that immediate cessation of visitation is essential as a preventive measure to minimize potential exposure.

Immediate provisions for the cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, including transportation vehicles, in accordance with the CDC's recommendations and corresponding protocols were also requested. Provisions would include disposable gloves, appropriate disinfectant, and any other recommendations by the CDC. Additionally, I have requested that hand sanitizer and medical face masks be made available upon request.

The union has also requested the immediate reduction of transportation of inmates to outside facilities except for medical emergencies. Medical offices, hospitals, and other public places present an opportunity for exposure to coronavirus and subsequent introduction to the originating facility.

In consideration of the rapidity of the spread of the virus, I am further requesting the Department's plan of action in the event of an outbreak within a facility or multiple facilities.

Proactive measures to minimize possible exposure of the coronavirus are vital to the health and well-being of facility staff, inmates, and the public in general. The union is prepared to work with the Department to implement appropriate measures to prevent and/ or reduce the spread of this outbreak.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Powers
President

Cc: Daniel Martuscello, Deputy Executive Commissioner
James O'Gorman, Deputy Commissioner of Facilities