




Corrections and Community Supervision

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ANTHONY J. ANNUCCI
Acting Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: All Superintendents

From: James A. O'Gorman, Deputy Commissioner for Correctional Facilities 

Date: March 17, 2020

Subject: Inmate Population-Social Distancing-COVID-19

In an effort to prevent the potential exposure and/or spread of COVID-19 among the inmate population, the following social distancing measures should be implemented:

- Mess Hall- Facilities shall formulate a way to seat inmates during meals, in such a manner which allows for appropriate social distancing based on your physical layout; inmates will not be seated directly next to each other. Additionally, there should be provisions in place for social distancing, during the escort to/from the mess hall.
- Religious Services- Where possible and if appropriate, a social distancing plan will also be effectuated for inmates wishing to attend services.
- Exercise/Recreation- A plan will be put in place for inmates who participate in activities which take place in the yard, gym, dayroom, television room, or any other areas utilized for exercise/recreation. This plan will allow for adequate time for such activities and social distancing.

The Department is taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of staff and inmates, as we continue to provide these essential services within our facilities.

Please read during line-up for 96 hours and/or share with all staff.

Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to your assigned Assistant Commissioner for Correctional Facilities.