

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Marc Bedard  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division

**FROM:** Suzanne McGurn  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Institutional Services Division

**DATE:** March 13, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Adult correctional facilities in response to COVID-19

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Out of an abundance of caution, the ministry is taking decisive actions to protect the health and safety of our staff and those in our custody as well as the community as a whole.

Given the ongoing and evolving COVID-19 virus situation, the ministry is taking proactive action to reduce possible transmission of the virus in our correctional facilities.

Effective today, March 13, 2020, intermittent inmates who serve time on the weekends will be required to attend their reporting facilities and then they will be sent home. The ministry will be granting temporary absence permits to facilitate the temporary release from custody.

It is important to keep in mind that intermittent inmates have been deemed low-risk by the courts and remain in the community Monday to Friday.

We are also temporarily suspending personal visits within our correctional facility effective Saturday, March 14, 2020. Professional visits including legal counsel will continue.

We can appreciate the need for inmates to be able to have contact with their friends and loved ones, but these measures are necessary in order to reduce any potential transmission of the COVID-19.

Inmates within our facilities will continue to have access to telephones to keep in contact.

The ministry will continue to monitor and assess the situation and take steps to respond effectively. Regular operations will resume as soon as it is appropriate to do so.



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Suzanne McGurn  
Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutional Services

Cc: Daryl Pitfield, Executive Director, Institutional Services