



# MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JOE KAST, SHERIFF

To: Our Community  
From: Commander Tad Larson, Jail Division  
Date: April 6, 2020  
Re: Jail response to COVID-19

We understand there are a number of questions about the impact COVID-19 will have on our jail. While making our initial changes in early March, we continue to make operational changes as more information comes available. As of April 5<sup>th</sup>, the following changes have been made at the Marion County Jail to protect our adults in custody and our staff and to prevent the spread of this virus:

- Since March 13<sup>th</sup>, all local law enforcement agencies in Marion County have been encouraged to cite and release in the field and seek alternatives to booking custodies who do not pose a significant risk to our community. This resulted in the overall population in the jail gradually decreasing over the last few weeks.
- On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, G-pod, a previously vacant housing unit at the jail, was reopened following extensive cleaning and preparations to ensure it was safe to house Adults in Custody (AIC). With the reopening of G-pod, all AIC are temporarily housed in single cells with an overall capacity of 305 beds at the jail.
- New lodges will be quarantined in a single cell environment for 72 hours to be monitored by medical staff.
- All pre-trial releases will enroll in pre-trial monitoring for the remainder of their court process.
- The jail will adjust monitoring and check on the AIC's more frequently than previously done.
- Based on the recommendation from our jail physician, we may be testing AIC's for COVID-19 as testing resources become available.
- We will follow the recommendations of our jail medical team regarding any testing of the AIC's.
- Each jail pod, and the associated staff working in each unit will be posted and remain at the same location as frequently as logistically possible.
- Any of our staff with symptoms are asked to call in sick and stay home and contact their medical provider.
- Staff will be screened as they come to work each day, and additionally will take their own temperature twice per shift. Staff with a temperature of 100.4 °F or greater will not be able to continue with their shift.
- All pods will be posted, in multiple languages, with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and best practices regarding social distancing or physical contact, frequent washing of hands, and cell cleaning/disinfecting.
- Every pod will have no more than 25 persons out at a time, inclusive of staff.
- Any AIC who do not follow the CDC social distancing guidelines will be quarantined for a minimum of 72 hours, allowing for time for observation.