



## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, COUNTY OF NASSAU

### Sheriff's Memo

**To: INMATE POPULATION, YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES**

**From: SHERIFF DZURENDA**

**Date: May 14, 2020**

**Subject: COVID-19 UPDATE**

It has been just about two months that County Executive Laura Curran declared Nassau County under the Guidelines of the State of Emergency with this horrific COVID-19 pandemic. I want everyone to be rest assured that the Nassau County Sheriff's Department is continuing to do everything possible to protect you, your family, loved ones and friends that may be incarcerated in the Correctional Center. I can't tell you how important this has been to me and I am pleased to say our plan has been a huge success.

While we will be continuing our COVID-19 efforts to contain or reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus, I want to say that your cooperation, understanding and patience during all of this is greatly appreciated. We have made significant reductions in our positive cases and actually closed the COVID-19 Infirmary Housing Area, because we no longer have the number of COVID-19 positive inmates to need that space. So, while I want to thank each and every one of you for your part, I also want you to see that the plan restricting movement and activities has worked and has saved lives.

Therefore, beginning Monday, May 18, 2020, we will begin to do the following in our gradual effort guided towards reopening;

- We will be allowing additional time out of the cells for telephone calls and hygiene, while maintaining safe "Social Distancing" as we continue to do in our communities.
- We will be allowing incrementally larger groups of inmates out together at the same time in order to afford the population this additional time out, but we must do so in a safe manner.
- Recreation periods will return to full periods with incrementally larger groups of inmates allowed out to the recreation yards at the same. Again, your cooperation for everyone's safety will determine if we can continue this effort.
- The creation of an Inmate Council pilot program in each housing area or area of classification. This Council will consist of representatives selected by the inmate population. Each area will have a representative to voice the concerns of their area's inmate population. Questions and concerns should stem from matters that the inmate population may be currently dealing with. The Council will be updated with any information which the Department feels will affect the inmates. The Inmate Council pilot program will rely on your cooperation, unruliness and misbehavior will not be tolerated as the intention of this pilot program is to benefit both the Department and the inmates.

Remember that your ability to make free phone calls for added communication with your family, friends and communities is still in effect. There has been no interruption in US Mail services during this State of Emergency, so I encourage you to write to friends and loved ones and you should encourage them to do so for you.

We need to protect staff from contracting the virus, as well as continue to prevent the introduction of the virus into the Correctional Center. Temperature screening for staff upon entering the facility or upon their request continues. Staff who are experiencing symptoms are sent to for COVID-19 virus testing and then follow Department of Health (DOH) guidelines. Staff must be cleared before returning to work in accordance to the CDC and DOH guidelines.