



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**  
**1701 FAIRFIELD WAY**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223**  
**ANTIONETTE V. IRVING - SHERIFF**



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**THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 16, 2020

We at the Richmond City Sheriff's Office appreciate the interest and concern of the public and the community regarding the Life, Health and Safety of those entrusted in our custody and care as well as our staff during this season. This pandemic has educated us all, and now as we move into the flu season we have to ensure that all inmates are able to receive the medical services needed. We are in weekly contact with the VDH with discussions surrounding vaccines and tests for COVID19, Pneumonia, Influenza, and Shingles. There are continuous efforts to educate both the inmates, contractors, and staff members here at the Sheriff's Office.

We will continue enforcing all protocols and procedures along with the guidelines recommended by the CDC. To include wearing masks, social distancing within the facility and courts, hand washing/hand sanitizing, temperature checks, and increased janitorial cleaning throughout the day. We are doing whatever it takes to mitigate the spread of this virus; however, it is also critical for inmates to also follow the rules, regulations and protocols that are in place. The inmates must wear their mask, wash their hands, practice good hygiene, and clean up after themselves as well as clean the common areas and their cells. Family members can help with these efforts by reminding the inmates of the seriousness of this illness and that age is not a factor; therefore, it is important that they follow the protocols that are in place. We have reminded our staff of the importance of traveling to HOT Spots. We also encourage them to know their circle to minimize the opportunity of the spread of the virus.

Contrary to what has been communicated to the public this office is not in position to release any persons without the appropriate court order or DOC authorization. We continue to work with both agencies regarding the release of those individuals that are eligible to be released prior to their scheduled release dates or that are eligible for release by bond. Inmates are still afforded the opportunity to meet with and speak with their attorneys, have the right to court, and are released as ordered. If there are any inmates who have tested positive or have been exposed they are required to wear the appropriate PPE to exit the facility for court, medical appointments, or video. Visitation is done via tablet, telephone, or remote video. We currently have no precautionary or active cases.



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Please follow us on our social media outlets for weekly updates regarding the Sheriff's Office to include the Justice Center and those housed here. We welcome communication with family members that contact this office and have setup an information line for questions, concerns or if you have not heard from your loved one. Individuals are also able to communicate with their family members and attorneys as needed. All staff members and inmates have been supplied with mask and are to wear mask along with social distance as much as possible. We understand that this is a vulnerable population with many chronic health conditions therefore we are offering these vaccinations and test at **NO CHARGE**.

**We ask that you research and begin to educate yourself along with your loved ones regarding vaccinations for COVID19, FLU, Pneumonia and Shingles. It is critically important that we all understand how these vaccines work and how they may impact each of us and our community. US Health Officials are urging Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination amid COVID-19 Pandemic.**

As a point of information, all new committals are offered **Influenza Vaccinations**. All new inmates coming into the facility are quarantined in an area strictly for new arrivals where they are housed for a minimum of 14 -20 days and will be **COVID-19** tested before entering population. Additionally, any inmates who test positive, have symptoms, or have been exposed are also quarantined for a minimum of 14 - 20 days. Staff members who test positive, have symptoms, or have been exposed are placed on immediate leave for testing as well as to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. Inmates that have tested positive are housed away from general population in a quarantined area, and their vitals are checked a minimum of 4 times in 24 hour period. Inmates that may have been exposed are quarantined and locked down, tested and allowed out during the day to use phones and take showers as well and to exercise. Any inmates testing positive or having been exposed are quarantined and monitored to determine if they exhibit any symptoms or any signs of illness. If an inmate is ill or has symptoms, he or she first receives immediate treatment by the medical team at the Richmond Justice Center provided by our contracted full-service provider, Mediko. In addition, the RCSO has an outstanding relationship with VCU Health System, which is one of the best research medical facilities in the country. VCU is located 1.5 miles from the Justice Center. Any inmate who is determined to need additional care is immediately transported to VCU. We will continue to quarantine and cohort to reduce the possibility of any type of outbreak.

"I thank our staff and medical providers as well as the team from the VDH for all their hard work and efforts to manage and maintain during this pandemic. We have an outstanding,



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dedicated team and they are fully committed to our efforts to successfully fight this virus and reduce its spread within our facilities and within the community at large.” -- Dr. Antionette V. Irving, Richmond City Sheriff.

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