



# Pine County Jail

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## Pine County Jail COVID-19 Response

(Revised July 17, 2020)

Pine County Jail takes the health and welfare of all incarcerated individuals in our charge very seriously. We continue to utilize our extensive sanitation plan and in addition have implemented procedures in efforts to minimize the potential for COVID-19 spread.

All inmates entering our jail are medically screened for COVID symptoms and are temporarily housed per results and medical determinations. Inmates are continuously monitored and screened for symptoms throughout their stay.

The following additional measures have been taken to protect everyone within the Pine County Jail.

**Masks:** Cloth barrier masks have been distributed to staff and incarcerated people at the Pine County Jail. Each person has been given instructions for how to care for the mask, how to put it on, and how to take it off safely. The masks are required to be worn in the facility.

Pine County Jail – Mend Medical Services staff and Corrections Officers have N95 masks, to use when interacting with symptomatic inmates. The Pine County Jail follows the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for when and how personal protective equipment is used.

**Medical Co-Pays:** Any individual reporting respiratory/cold/cough systems will NOT be charged a co-pay at this time for those related medical issues.

**Protecting Staff and their Families:** Pine County Jail has implemented measures to protect staff and their families. Similar to staff at health care facilities, jail staff have been provided guidance from the CDC and MDH with steps to take to protect their families while they continue to come to work. Information has been distributed via e-mails and postings at the facility for washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing while they are at work and when they leave work.

**Hand sanitation stations:** Pine County Jail has installed new hand sanitation stations at the entrances to the facility and at work stations. All individuals (staff and inmates) are encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.

**Protective barriers:** Pine County Jail has installed protective barriers at all work stations and the Intake processing unit in the jail.

**Screening:** All staff have their temperature taken and are screened on a daily basis for recent symptoms. If they have been symptomatic, a physician's approval is required to return to work. All staff are provided with barrier masks and are required to wear them when interacting with inmates and staff.

**Isolation & Quarantine Plans:** Pine County Jail has an isolation and quarantine plan in place. Details include utilizing our segregation units for proper separation while recovering from COVID, as well as inmates quarantined from general population while being screened due to potential exposure, when newly arriving at the facility, or if they have been transported outside the facility. This segregation unit will be kept separate from the general population and has appropriate layout to minimize risk to other inmates and staff.

**Phones:** Inmates at Pine County Jail continue to have access to standard phone calls, texting and iPad communications. Phones are cleaned by in-house inmate STS worker with germicidal cleaner. Cleaning supplies are also available to inmates wishing to wipe down a phone or iPad as needed throughout the day.

**Video Visiting:** Friends and family who wish to utilize on-site video visits now receive one free 20-minute video visit per visiting day from our video visiting room in the lobby. Visits are by appointment only and must be scheduled 24 hours in advance. Kiosks are wiped down and sanitized in-between visits by staff.

**Court and other professional services:** Inmates have access to attorneys and other professional visits by telephone. If scheduled by the professional, inmates may visit by means of video conferencing. Court proceedings are conducted by means of video conferencing unless otherwise directed by the courts.

**Showers and Bathrooms:** Inmates still have access to showers and bathroom facilities. Pine County Jail inmates have access to daily showers and sinks/toilets in their cells and housing units. All showers are individual stalls.

**Barber service:** Public barber service providers coming in to the jail has been discontinued until further notice in keeping with community standards. Jail program services remains in contact with the service provider and will resume barber services as soon as available.

**Recreation:** All inmates have regular access to a variety of out-of-cell activities on a daily basis. In-unit and out-of-unit recreation periods happen periodically and is balanced to provide equal access to all inmates. Time in the recreation areas is offered daily on a rotating schedule. Common surfaces and equipment is disinfected on a regular basis with a germicidal cleaner and monitored by Recreation staff.

**Food Services:** Pine County Jail continues to provide meals to the housing units. Per MNDOC requirements the Pine County Jail continues to maintain regular food supplies to include an emergency supply in the event of food shortages. Requirements state we have a two-week emergency food supply. The Pine County Jail has increased this to a four-week emergency supply.

**Work:** Pine County Jail has inmate workers in Laundry, Kitchen and Janitorial. All inmate workers are only working and moving to and from their work assignments with other inmates from their housing unit.

**Medication:** Pine County Jail medical staff are delivering all medications directly to the housing units, which promotes social distancing and keeps inmates of other housing units separate from one another.

**Mail and Emails:** Inmates can still send and receive mail, text messages and emails as they normally would.

**Canteen:** The inmate store, known as Canteen, is operating normally, with additional measures in place for social distancing.

**Education:** Beginning Wednesday July 22nd the Pine County Jail will resume GED Educational Services. Participants will be attending face-to-face class in the Programs Unit. The face-to-face delivery will be by housing unit in that we will only have one housing unit in the Programs Unit at a time. Inmates and all staff will wear masks at all times. Additionally, we will maintain social distancing in all areas of the Programs Unit.

**Additional Social Distancing:** Volunteer based programming including religious services and other groups are temporarily on hold to promote social distancing and to reduce the risk of spreading the virus at group gatherings. Our Programs Coordinator is in constant communications with our volunteers and will continue services as soon as available.