



## Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) RESPONSE

March 12, 2020

To ensure we are protecting staff and our prison population based on the latest information available on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact in Louisiana, we are moving into the next step of our response for our Department:

1. Effective immediately, all visiting is suspended at state prisons. You are encouraged to contact your family immediately to notify them of this decision and urge them not to travel to the prisons until notification that visiting has resumes. We will review the decision on visitation restriction every 30 days until the threat subsides.
  - a. For all intent and purposes, attorney visits are included in this restriction. We will review attorney visit requests on a case by case basis to review the impact of delaying the visit when necessary. In the rare instance these visits are approved to proceed, the attorney will be screened upon arrival following the existing protocols (meaning they can be turned away if they meet certain indicators of infection). If the attorney is approved to enter the facility, the visit will be conducted as a non-contact visit.
2. We are working with our phone and tablet providers to expand access to telephone services to ensure you have continued connection to family and friends during this time. We are asking that for the period in which visiting is suspended that telephone call time limits be expanded. More details about this opportunity will be distributed as it becomes available.
3. Effectively Friday, March 13, 2020, we are discontinuing off-site non-emergent (non-life threatening) trips.
  - a. Medical trip, including off-site clinics, are being cancelled by medical staff. On site clinics at state prisons will continue to be operational at this time.
  - b. Funeral trips and bed-side family visits are discontinued as well. The Warden has discretion to review funeral requests on a case by case basis, however in the rare instance a funeral trip is approved to proceed, precautions will be taken to ensure the minimal amount of contact as possible.
  - c. For the immediate future, court trips will continue as scheduled.

Please understand that none of these decisions have been made lightly and they are done so to protect our staff and prisoner population. Similar to nursing homes, our operations are extremely vulnerable to contagious illnesses and we have to take as many as precautions as possible.