



**DIVISION OF
CORRECTION**

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DOC TAKES STEPS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19

After much discussion with the Arkansas Health Department, the Administration, and its divisions and medical provider, the Department of Corrections is suspending inmate visitation for 21 days in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to the employees and inmates at its correctional facilities. The suspension includes all prisons and community correction centers, and it applies to regular and special visits.

Because DOC wants to keep family ties as strong as possible during this time, the price of phone calls has been reduced. There will be no connect fee on telephone calls and the per minute price will be 15 cents on calls with offenders in both the Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction facilities. Video visitation will be \$2.50 for a 30-minute visit at state prisons and 15 cents a minute for video visits at community correction centers.

To further reduce the number of people coming inside the facilities, only badged volunteers will be allowed to enter facilities for the next 21 days. Occasional volunteers, including those with faith-based groups, cannot enter during this time.

The Parole Board will hold its hearings by telephone and will not appear in person at the facilities. Family members, victims, or anyone else wishing to support or protest parole for an inmate may email their comments to ParoleBoard@arkansas.gov. Offender attorneys can appear at the Parole Board office in Little Rock.

To further limit possible exposure to the virus, inmates will not be allowed to go on meritorious or emergency furloughs during the three-week period. The prohibition applies to all inmates, including 309 Program participants housed in county jails and those at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy and the Arkansas State Police. Our work release inmates will continue to work and be allowed furloughs.

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