



Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

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MICHAEL REESE
SHERIFF

Exemplary service for a safe, livable community

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SPECIAL ORDER

20-03

MARCH 19, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID - 19
EFFECTIVE: MARCH 19, 2020
PURPOSE: INFORMATION SHARING

Dear Members,

Our agency and our communities are facing an unprecedented crisis from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We are operating under emergency declarations at the national, state and local levels, as well as restrictions on court operations from the Oregon Supreme Court and our local presiding judge.

In conjunction with our public safety and public health partners, we have made significant changes to our criminal justice system to protect our community, adults in custody and our staff. We made these difficult decisions to ensure the continued viability of our criminal justice system as the COVID-19 pandemic grows.

In our jail facilities, we house people who are medically fragile, sometimes in an environment confining them to housing with many others. That dynamic presents a serious risk to adults in custody and our staff. We have made several decisions in light of the challenges ahead. These include:

- Limiting the number of people coming to the booking facility.
- Creating additional screening at the booking counter.
- Opening a dorm to allow for lower numbers of people in each housing unit.
- Additional cleaning of facilities.
- Information on proper personal hygiene to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Stopping social visitations and outside service providers from entering facilities.
- Rescheduling all TSI for 90 days.

We also anticipate opening a classification housing unit at MCDC to house new arrivals in the next few days.

On patrol our Deputy Sheriff's and professional staff continue to provide emergency services but we are trying to limit exposure to the public when possible. We have made several changes to our operations. These include:

- Cite-n-lieu of custody for non-mandatory arrest misdemeanors and non-person misdemeanor warrants.
- Stopping CHL processes.
- Telephone report taking when possible.
- Closing the Kelly Building and Multnomah Building to the public.
- Stopping Citizen Patrol missions.

I realize that some of these changes could have an impact on public safety. The risk of a potential increase in criminality is not lost on me. However, given the significant public health risks facing our communities, these departures from our normal practices are needed to help control the spread of the virus not only to the public, but to our staff and those individuals in our care and custody. These changes would have been incredibly difficult to imagine a few months ago. However, it's clear from the public health authorities and the emergency declarations that we need to move quickly if we are to protect lives in this unprecedented crisis. Our partners in other agencies are taking similar actions as well.

Please know that you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers during these uncertain times. Thank you for all you do protecting and serving our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Reese". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MICHAEL REESE
SHERIFF

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