



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

*Metropolitan Detention Center*

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*535 N. Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012*

March 18, 2020

Honorable Virginia A. Phillips  
Chief Judge of the District Court  
United States District Court,  
Central District of California  
350 West 1st Street, Courtroom 8A  
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Honorable Paul L. Abrams  
Chief Magistrate Judge of the District Court  
United States District Court,  
Central District of California  
255 East Temple Street, Courtroom 780  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Update No. 2 – Modified Operations at the Metropolitan Detention Center  
in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

Dear Judge Phillips and Magistrate Judge Abrams,

I write to provide you with a further update of the modified operations at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles (“MDCLA”) regarding the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ efforts to combat and control the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). As before, I ask that you disseminate this letter to all of the Judges in the District Court so that it can be shared as widely as possible. Furthermore, I am again copying this letter to the individuals and agencies indicated at the end of this.

To begin with, we want to reassure the Court and the greater legal community that, as of this writing, MDCLA is not housing anyone with a confirmed or suspected case COVID-19, nor are we housing anyone suspected of having been exposed to this disease. Furthermore, the BOP has posted additional information about the agency's response to the COVID-19 breakout at <https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp>. At the bottom of that page, the agency is posting all COVID-19 related significant instances. As of this writing, the BOP is reporting that there have been no confirmed inmate related cases, but that there are two confirmed cases of staff with COVID-19, one in Grand Prairie, Texas, and one in Berlin, New Hampshire.

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Page 2

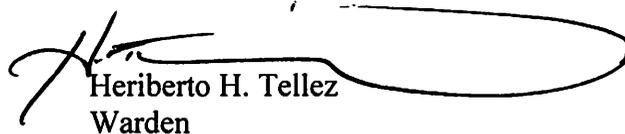
In addition, as I wrote last Friday, the Agency issued a national action plan for responding to the outbreak. I am attaching a copy of this memorandum. The text of the memorandum is also available online at [https://www.bop.gov/resources/news/20200313\\_covid-19.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/resources/news/20200313_covid-19.jsp).

Turning to MDCLA, I wanted to provide you with an update of some of the precautionary procedures we have instituted. As I wrote last Friday, we are conducting medical screenings for all inmates prior to accepting them into custody at MDCLA. However, given the risks and uncertainties related to this disease, I have decided to quarantine all new incoming inmates for a period of fourteen (14) days after their arrival. Inmates will not be placed into any of our general population units until they have cleared this quarantine.

Furthermore, we are now conducting temperature checks of all inmates scheduled to go to Court before turning them over to the USMS to be transported. Any inmate with a temperature of 100.4° F or above will not be transported to Court. We will, of course, inform both the USMS and the Court of the situation.

Again, I would like to thank the Court, our partner agencies and the greater legal community for their cooperation during this period. I will provide further updates as they become available and I again invite you to contact my office or my legal staff with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
Heriberto H. Tellez  
Warden