



Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Bryan Collier
Executive Director

April 11, 2020

Dear Sheriff:

To limit the spread of the coronavirus, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) will halt all intake of inmates from county jails effective Monday, April 13, 2020. Following the disaster declaration issued March 13, 2020, statutory time requirements have been waived specific to the transfer of jail inmates into the TDCJ system. This action is necessary and temporary.

Correctional systems across the country find themselves in a similar situation in which they are battling a faceless enemy that does not discriminate between jurisdictions. I know you are hard at work trying to keep it at bay or from further spreading in your jail. Halting the intake of new inmates will allow the TDCJ to fight this virus without further exposing both county and state inmates.

Since the beginning of this outbreak, the TDCJ has implemented a multitude of agency-wide policies, protocols, and preventive measures to prepare and respond to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Texas. We remain in continuous communication with the Centers for Disease Control, Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Department of State Health Services, and our university healthcare providers to stay apprised of any developments associated with the spread of the virus and update our preventive and response measures as necessary.

Despite these robust efforts, the virus has entered the TDCJ system. To date, there are 69 employees, medical providers, or contractors who have tested positive. Another 130 inmates have been diagnosed. These numbers go up each day, and we must do more to deny this virus the opportunity to spread.

I recognize this is an additional strain on your jail. Please know it is our intention to begin taking jail inmates when this situation stabilizes, and it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your understanding as we collectively navigate these challenging times together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Collier".

Bryan Collier
Executive Director

Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

P.O. Box 99
Huntsville, Texas 77342-0099
(936) 437-2101
www.tdcj.texas.gov