

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: MEDICAL ISOLATION PROTOCOLS

H-1500

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
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APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE:

POLICY

To protect the health and safety of staff and other incarcerated people, the following safety protocols have been established for incarcerated people who require medical isolation. When an incarcerated person identified as requiring medical isolation is to be received at a detentions facility, the necessary precautions will be enacted in advance of the incarcerated person's arrival. Such incarcerated people will be moved to medical isolation housing as soon as possible.

Staff will take the necessary safety precautions whenever contact with a medically isolated incarcerated person is necessary. Such incarcerated person will not be moved from the assigned isolation cell unless authorized by the facility manager or in the event of an emergency in which such movement is necessary to prevent death or serious injury.

DEFINITION (S):

Medical Isolation- The isolation of an incarcerated person to prevent the spread of airborne diseases. This type of isolation is generally accomplished by housing the incarcerated person in the Negative Pressure Isolation Cells in the Pre-Trial Outpatient Medical Housing Unit. Medical isolation does not include medical housing for observation or administratively separating an incarcerated person for medical reasons.

DIRECTIVE #1

The following isolation procedures will be followed when receiving and/or housing incarcerated people requiring medical isolation. Such incarcerated people include:

- Incarcerated people who have or are suspected of having COVID-19, mumps, meningococcal meningitis, measles (rubeola), rubella, chicken pox, pertussis, or TB (not including old inactive TB or active TB when the incarcerated person has been on therapy for two weeks or more.)

- Any arrestee identified as requiring medical isolation by a public health agency or other law enforcement agency.
- Any incarcerated person or arrestee identified as potentially requiring medical isolation by the facility medical staff or the arresting/transporting officer.

DIRECTIVE #2

With the exception of the incarcerated person's initial transportation and/or movement to medical isolation, medically isolated incarcerated people will not be transported or moved without the approval of the division manager. If the delay in obtaining such approval would result in a serious threat to the health or safety of any person, the incarcerated person may be transported without approval. In such cases, the division manager will be notified as soon as possible.

Procedure A: Advance Preparations for Receiving Medically Isolated Incarcerated People

Upon receiving notification that an incarcerated person or new arrestee who requires medical isolation is being transported to a detentions facility, the staff member receiving notification will notify the shift supervisor.

The shift supervisor will ensure that the following precautions are taken. Whenever possible, these precautions will be taken prior to the incarcerated person's arrival. In the event that an incarcerated person arrives before the necessary precautions are in place, the arrestee will not enter the facility until the precautions are in place. The necessary precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- All non-essential personnel and other incarcerated people will be removed from the receiving area.
- Staff who are to remain in the receiving area will don the appropriate protective clothing, which will at a minimum include:
 - Latex or vinyl gloves.
 - An isolation mask (N95).
 - Protective eyewear, if necessary.
- An isolation mask will be placed on the incarcerated person prior to their admittance into the facility. If necessary, the facility staff will provide the mask to the incarcerated person prior to the incarcerated person's entry into the facility.

- Make the necessary arrangements in advance to have the incarcerated person moved to medical isolation housing. If transportation to another facility is required, refer to Procedure C of this section.

Procedure B: Medical Isolation of Incarcerated People

Once an incarcerated person requiring medical isolation arrives at the facility or if an incarcerated person at the facility is identified as requiring medical isolation, the shift supervisor will ensure that:

- Every reasonable effort is made to move the incarcerated person to medical isolation housing as soon as possible. If the incarcerated person must be transported to another facility for medical isolation, refer to Procedure C of this section.
- The incarcerated person will wear a medical isolation mask until placed in a medical isolation cell. The incarcerated person will continue to wear the mask whenever he/she leaves the medical isolation cell.
- If the incarcerated person is a new arrestee and must be booked, the booking process will be completed as soon as possible.
- All other incarcerated people and any non-essential personnel are to be kept away from the incarcerated person.
- If the incarcerated person is to be moved within the facility, the incarcerated person's destination and the route to that destination will be cleared of other incarcerated people and non-essential personnel.
- Prior to the incarcerated person's movement, staff will broadcast a radio warning indicating that a medically isolated incarcerated person is being moved and identifying the areas that need to be cleared.
- Classification will be advised of the incarcerated person's isolation status.

The classification officer will:

- Make the necessary housing change.
- Receive from Medical Staff a "Medical Notice to Court" form with the incarcerated person's name and prognosis for attending court.
- Fax a copy of the "Medical Notice to Court" to the presiding court judge and any courts having jurisdiction over the incarcerated person's case.

- Cancel affected court appointments until medically cleared for court.

Procedure C: Transporting Incarcerated People Who Require Medical Isolation

When an incarcerated person requiring medical isolation is to be transported, arrangements for such transportation should be made in advance whenever possible. Advance preparation is necessary to allow the transporting officer(s) to enact the necessary precautions and be ready to leave without unnecessary delay.

When transporting a medically isolated incarcerated person, transporting officer(s) will:

- Wear the appropriate protective clothing, which at a minimum will include:
 - Latex or vinyl gloves.
 - An isolation mask.
 - Protective eyewear, if necessary.

Note: Such protective clothing is to be worn in addition to the safety gear normally used for transportation of incarcerated people (body armor, appropriate weapons, etc.)

- Ensure the incarcerated person wears a medical isolation mask throughout the transport.
- Ensure that the destination facility has been informed of the incarcerated person's estimated time of arrival and medical restrictions.

Procedure D: Incarcerated People in Medical Isolation Housing

When an incarcerated person is placed in medical isolation housing, the following guidelines will be adhered to:

- A sign will be placed on the door indicating to staff that the incarcerated person is being medically isolated and is not to be moved without the division manager's approval.
- If the incarcerated person must be moved, the applicable precautions detailed in Procedure B of this section will be adhered to.
- Staff will avoid contact with the incarcerated person unless absolutely necessary. If an officer must enter the cell, that officer will don all of the appropriate protective clothing, as described in procedure A of this section. Prior to entering

the cell, the officer will instruct the incarcerated person to don a medical isolation mask.

Procedure E: Discontinuation of Medical Isolation

The requirements of the above procedures will remain in effect until the medical staff or Public Health Department determines that medical isolation is no longer necessary for the incarcerated person.