



## POLICE ADMINISTRATION

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# Preparing for the Establishment of an Isolation or Quarantine Center in your Jurisdiction

In this unprecedented time of medical crisis over the COVID-19 outbreak, we are all finding unforeseen challenges that we are rapidly adjusting to as we all work to continue to meet our mission to protect and serve. One of the challenges you may face is the establishment of an isolation or quarantine center in your jurisdiction. The following is a checklist of things law enforcement executives may want to engage your County Public Health Officials on to limit the potential negative impacts of these facilities.

### Important Questions to Ask:

- ✓ Is this a voluntary or mandatory commitment facility? If it will be a voluntary facility, patients may leave whenever they want to. LE will not have enforcement powers over voluntary facilities. If it is a mandatory commitment facility, commitment orders issued by Public Health Officers are enforceable by LE personnel
- ✓ What type of patients are they placing at this facility?
  - Are the patients confirmed COVID-19 positive, symptomatic for COVID-19 waiting for test results, or just symptomatic of potential COVID-19?
  - Will patients have other pre-existing medical/mental health needs, and how are those being dealt with?
  - Will patients have pre-existing addiction issues, and how are those being dealt with?
  - Note: Unless your facility is a mandatory commitment facility, the patients placed in the facility will be those who are not able to isolate in their private residences or who have no other option
- ✓ Will this be a clean and sober facility or a no barrier facility? In addition to the inherent health risk to addicts who are not being treated adequately for withdrawals, addicts should not be counted on to stop using simply because they are in a voluntary isolation center.
- ✓ Will there be onsite medical and security staff? If a patient has a medical emergency or some other safety need, onsite personnel should help to keep service calls to your department low
- ✓ How will medical transportation be handled? If the medical needs of a patient exceed the capability of onsite staff, how are medical transports being handled?
- ✓ How are they providing basic life necessities such as food, water, medicine, laundry, garbage disposal, etc.? Being able to provide these services onsite will help to keep voluntary patients from leaving the facility to seek these necessities somewhere in your community
- ✓ Will there be behavior rules in place for the patients and what happens if they violate those rules?



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Ask for these provisions:

- ✓ Onsite Medical and Security Personnel
  - Medical Staff on site to physically interact and treat patients as needed
  - Security Personnel to prevent unwanted visitors and report walk-aways
- ✓ Pre-planned Medical Transport
  - Ask that a contract with a private ambulance service be established specifically capable of transporting COVID-19 positive patients
  - Has Medic 1 personnel been notified of this facility and are they prepared for these typed of medical emergencies?
- ✓ Pre-planned Public Health Commitment Order Enforcement Plan
  - Ask that all COVID-19 positive patients be placed on a mandatory commitment order that authorizes LE to enforce the order
  - Establish a contract or agreement that identifies who is responsible for enforcing the order
- ✓ Controlled Access
  - Ask that ingress and egress from the facility be controlled by private security
  - If the facility is open to foot and vehicle traffic, consider asking that the facility be fenced and that a controlled gate be installed
- ✓ Clean and Sober Facility
  - Ask that the law apply to anyone at the facility and that patients not be allowed to use illegal substances or alcohol while at the facility
  - Ask if onsite medical staff will have the ability to treat patients for withdrawal symptoms
- ✓ Return to Place of Origin
  - Ask that arrangements be made to return patients to their place of origin once they complete treatment/quarantine or at any point that they decide to leave
- ✓ Limits on Use of Facility
  - Ask that the facility be closed and restored to its regular use once all state and county emergency orders are lifted related to the COVID-19 outbreak, and all patients have either completed their quarantine period or have tested negative
  - Ask that patients who voluntarily quarantine/isolate be sent back to their place of origin should they test negative for COVID-19
  - Ask that patients with pre-existing mental health or behavior disorders not be housed at this facility unless onsite staff have the capabilities to provide adequate services
- ✓ Notification Requirement
  - Ask for weekly updates on the number of patients on the premises, and the number of patients confirmed with COVID-19
  - Ask that security personnel be required to notify your department immediately if they have a patient walk-away, even if it's a voluntary departure

Other Considerations:

- ✓ Notification and messaging to the public. Ideally, your department and county officials can stand together with a collaborative plan and announce facility together to the community



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- ✓ Financial Impacts. There will likely be financial impacts of having a center in your jurisdiction. How will you track those impacts, and is there a way to recover those losses at some point?
- ✓ Call response. What calls will your officers respond to? Which ones won't your officer respond to?
- ✓ Other locations. If you realize you are receiving one of these facilities and a site has not been determined, consider making recommendations on locations that will limit the impact on your community. If given the opportunity, we are more likely to find a location that provides these essential services while at the same time minimizing the safety and economic impacts to our jurisdictions.

I'd welcome any questions. Please email me at [rpadilla@kentwa.gov](mailto:rpadilla@kentwa.gov).

Respectfully,

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