



# Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail

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## VPRJ STATEMENT AND GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 PREPARATIONS

Williamsburg, Virginia – In preparation for COVID-19 and out of an abundance of caution, effective Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, VPRJ will suspend all volunteer programming and weekender programming at Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail. This suspension will remain in effect tentatively until Friday, April 3, 2020, and is subject to change based on any updated information we receive about COVID-19.

Earlier today, Superintendent Colonel Witham, along with VPRJ's on-site physician and members of our nursing staff, held town halls with each housing unit to give inmates an update on VPRJ's preparations and contingency plans for responding to COVID-19, should the need to do so occur.

“We are closely monitoring developments as relates to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 and are following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control updates and guidance on the spread of the disease and how to effectively protect staff and inmates from infection,” said Colonel Witham. “We are working with our contracted medical provider, as well as our in-house medical staff, to provide visitors, staff, and inmates with the best, most up-to-date information we have on this virus. We are also working with our suppliers to ensure we have essentials such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap, and other preventative materials on hand to reduce the risk of anyone contracting this virus. In the event we become aware that an individual at VPRJ has contracted COVID-19, we will immediately provide notice to our local health department, and take steps to isolate that individual from the jail population.”

Colonel Witham continued: “Further, members of VPRJ's medical, security operations, and support services staffs have received training specific to COVID-19, recently having participated in a webinar provided by the American Correctional Association. Additional training will be provided to staff over the coming weeks as it becomes available. In order to reduce the potential of an infected individual coming into contact with our jail population, I have made the decision to suspend all volunteer programming and weekender programming at VPRJ. In the event we must take additional measures to ensure the health and safety of the public and inmates, we will communicate those measures and updates to the public through the media, our website at [www.vprj.net](http://www.vprj.net), and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/VAPRJ](https://www.facebook.com/VAPRJ).”

“This situation is one which is very fluid, with new information on COVID-19 being provided to state and local health officials every day. VPRJ is absolutely committed to providing our inmates, their families and loved ones, our staff, and the public with the most up-to-date information we have on this rapidly evolving event, and to take any steps necessary, in consultation with our local health department officials and our medical provider, to ensure the well-being of anyone who may visit our facility.”