



# Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail

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**For Immediate Release**  
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**Media Contact: Sara Mahayni**  
**Office: 757-820-3943**

## **VPRJ UPDATE ON COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Williamsburg, Virginia – In response to continuing updates to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail has incorporated the following into our daily operations:

- All officers and staff inside our ‘secure perimeter’ are now required to be masked. This is in keeping with guidance from the CDC and VDH. Officers and staff will remain masked while inside the secure perimeter at all times. The enhanced measures are intended to protect the committed population and staff at VPRJ and reduce the opportunity for the spread of COVID-19 from those coming and going from the facility. Additionally, all new committed inmates will be masked upon their entrance to the facility and will remain so during medical observation and quarantine.
- VPRJ officers and staff continue to have their temperature checked and receive medical clearance prior to the start of their shift.
- VPRJ continues to quarantine newly committed inmates for a period of 14 days upon their arrival to our facility. The quarantine requires multiple and regular daily contacts with medical staff to ensure wellness. Only after the 14 day period has passed are these inmates allowed to process into a general housing unit.
- All inmates who exit their assigned housing units for any reason will now be masked. This will affect those inmates who have direct contact meetings with attorneys and those who present for video Court appearances.
- The lobby remains closed to members of the general public. In-person family and friends visitation is suspended through at least Friday, April 30, 2020, or until otherwise revised. VPRJ will work to accommodate continued access to those members of the public who have business with the Magistrate, as well as attorneys who need to meet with their clients.
- We have made it a priority to, as much as we can, restrict movement throughout the facility of both staff and inmates in an effort to reduce the opportunity for exposure to illness.
- Efforts to continually clean and disinfect remain in effect and are promoted by both staff and inmates.

“We understand this is a very stressful time for not only the inmates committed to our custody, but for their family members and friends on the outside who have not been able to interact with their loved ones the way they are normally accustomed to doing,” said Superintendent Colonel Witham. “We remain committed to the inmates in our custody and care, and to their family and loved ones, that we will do everything we possibly can to ensure the health and safety of those incarcerated at VPRJ as we continue to work through this pandemic. Should anyone have any questions, they are encouraged to contact the jail at 757-820-3900. As always, any updates will be placed on our website at [www.vprj.net](http://www.vprj.net) and on our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/VaPRJ](http://www.Facebook.com/VaPRJ).”