



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

HAROLD W. CLARKE  
DIRECTOR


*Department of Corrections*

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May 26, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

To: All VADOC Employees

From: Lucinda Childs-White   
Human Resources Director

Subject: COVID-19 Employees and Point Prevalence Testing

During this evolving public health crisis, the Department has implemented a number of progressive strategies consistent with guidance and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Virginia Department of Health. One of the most important measures for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities has been point prevalence testing. This approach involves testing all staff and offenders at a facility, or designated area within a facility or workplace, over a short period. Data collected from these surveys helps inform the Department's practices and serves as an early intervention strategy for containing the transmission of the virus among employees and those in our custody and care.

Point prevalence testing provides facility leadership and health care staff with valuable information about the magnitude and distribution of COVID-19 infection at a point in time. Testing conducted at our facilities and research to date have shown us that asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic COVID-19 cases make up a significant portion of the positive cases among staff and offenders. These cases contribute to "silent transmission" of the virus to others. Therefore, by identifying positive cases sooner, we are able to take more proactive measures to quarantine positive employees and their close contacts who may not be flagged by our employee screening questionnaire; and cohort, monitor, and treat those in our custody.

The test is a nasal swab that will be collected by a nurse or provider. Positive results will be shared immediately so that quarantine decisions may be made. If you develop symptoms while awaiting results, please notify your supervisor and Human Resources before returning to the workplace.

Due to the critical role Point prevalence testing plays in informing our strategies for containing the spread of COVID-19, your participation in this testing is mandatory and considered a condition of employment. Failure to cooperate with point prevalence testing at your work location will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, under the Standards of Conduct.

COVID-19 Point Prevalence Testing

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Please work with your management and human resources' staff if you have any questions, and remember this strategy is for your benefit and well-being. You will be provided additional information and details when point prevalence testing is scheduled at your work location. Your cooperation is not only appreciated but also key to protecting your health and safety as well as your colleagues and offenders in our care.

LCW

cc: Executive Leadership Team  
Unit Heads  
Human Resource Officers  
COVID-19 Leadership