

March 27, 2020

Dear Director Stirling,

The World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. As the number of Americans and South Carolinians infected continues to grow exponentially, it is imperative to focus on prevention and containment of the COVID-19 within the criminal justice system.

We appreciate all of the effort that SCDC has put into its COVID-19 response, but we remain deeply concerned that incarcerated people and your staff remain at increased risk of exposure. As we have seen throughout the country, this virus can spread rapidly inside prisons and jails.

As we noted in our letter to you on March 10, data collection is a key part of an effective response to COVID-19. This week, the ACLU of Ohio asked Governor DeWine and the heads of Ohio's state prison and youth systems to publicly answer several questions on a daily basis to ensure transparency and provide reassurance to the loved ones of DOC employees and incarcerated people. Within less than twenty-four hours, the governor and state corrections agencies began posting the requested data and updating it daily.

We urge you to follow Ohio's lead and bring transparency to your data collection process. We ask that you commit to posting the following information on your public website no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 30, 2020, and provide updates on a daily basis:

- 1) Does SCDC have test kits available to test incarcerated people or staff showing symptoms of COVID-19? If yes, how many test kits does SCDC have?
- 2) Are there any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in any SCDC facilities? If so, how many? Which facilities?
- 3) Are there any suspected cases of COVID-19 in any SCDC facilities? If so, how many? Which facilities?
- 4) Is anyone in a SCDC facility being quarantined? If so, how many? Which facilities? How/under what conditions?

It is imperative that SCDC maintains the public's trust, particularly during a pandemic like this. Transparency is key to maintaining this trust.

With Sincere Thanks,

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