

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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Technical Assistance Memorandum

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director *Brandon S. Wood*
DATE: March 27, 2020
RE: COVID-19-Transport of inmates to TDCJ

As the entire state of Texas continues to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, correctional agencies must remain vigilant and take all necessary steps to limit the exposure of this virus to staff and inmates. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) has enhanced its protocols for newly received inmates, to include screening them for symptoms of COVID-19 and checking for elevated temperatures upon arrival.

The TDCJ is requesting your cooperation with screening precautions at the local level. The agency is requesting that jail staff take the temperature of all inmates before they are placed on transport vehicles for intake into a TDCJ facility. Should the individual have a body temperature of 100.4 F or higher, the inmate should not be transported to the TDCJ.

Jail staff should **IMMEDIATELY** contact the agency's Health Services Division to provide additional information.

Jan Vickers
TDCJ Office of Health Services Liaison
(936)437-3578

Alternative arrangements, to include individual transport, will be made for intake that minimizes the risk of exposure to employees and the inmate population with the utmost urgency. **The TDCJ will continue to accept these inmates.**

The TDCJ recognizes that the country and state is dealing with an unprecedented situation. Let me say thank you for all of your efforts both seen and unseen as we collectively navigate issues during these challenging times.

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
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