

# Reentry Newsletter



CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

July 2020

## COVID-19 Impacts on the Reentry Program

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Clark County Sheriff's Office Reentry Program. Correctional facilities, including Clark County Jail, face unique challenges to control the spread of the illness. Reentry often receives questions from community partners (answered below). The jail may need to change operations at any time as the duration and severity of the pandemic is unknown. COVID-19 may have a lasting impact on Reentry Program services.

### Common Questions for the Reentry Program:

**Did the jail release everyone?**

**NO**

In March the courts and the prosecutor's office determined which inmates qualified for release taking into consideration medically vulnerable and risk of safety to the community. The jail continues to implement a restrictive booking level to create social distancing, however crimes with mandatory arrests and/or anyone deemed dangerous by the courts remain incarcerated in Clark County Jail. This means there are less inmates who would be potentially eligible for Reentry Program services.

	Average Daily Population	Average Daily Bookings
March 17, 2020	601	36
March 19, 2020	417	11
April 27, 2020	338	8

Clark County Jail 2020

**Has anyone tested positive for COVID-19 in the jail?**

**YES**

Clark County Jail had one inmate and one deputy test positive for COVID-19. The jail continues to take extensive safety precautions to comply with CDC Guidelines outlined for corrections facilities. Clark County Jail has also started rapid testing.

**I heard no one can come into the jail. Is this true?**

**NO**

Only legal and judicial access to the jail is still allowed. Most other professional visitors are temporarily suspended from entering the jail to restrict spread of COVID-19.

**Is the Reentry Program closed? Why?**

**YES**

To create social distancing, H-Pod was converted to a housing unit and group classes are cancelled. Reentry deputies have returned to jail operations and are unable to coordinate visits, phone calls and classes. There are limited activities in Reentry's BJA and SAMHSA funded programs but services are still facilitated by jail discharge planners.

**Is Reentry gone forever?**

**NO**

CCSO remains committed to the Reentry Program. The closure is temporary due to COVID-19.



## COVID-19 and the Reentry Program Timeline

March 15, 2020	Governor Inslee issues a "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation requiring social distancing and shut down of all but essential services.
March 16, 2020	<b>Chief Bishop closes Clark County Jail to all visitors (exception of constitutionally obligated visitors such as attorneys) to prevent introduction of COVID-19 into the jail, similar to steps taken in other facilities.</b>
March 18, 2020	Clark County Superior Court suspends all criminal and civil jury trials until July 6, 2020 and all adult and juvenile in-custody criminal hearings except for first appearances, arraignments, plea hearings, criminal motions without testimony or other evidence requirement and sentencing or disposition hearings. The courts rapidly expand the use and criteria for electronic home monitoring. The courts start modifying jail releases.
March 19, 2020	Clark County Prosecutor's Office presents inmates identified as medically vulnerable, meeting an acceptable risk/supervision criteria determined by the courts. Inmates approved by the courts are released.
March 20, 2020	CCSO suspends participation in the Northwest Cooperative Shuttle to reduce the average number of intakes in the jail. CCSO also stops accepting Washington DOC warrants as sole charge (unless the person poses a public safety threat) and increased booking restrictions to Clark County Jail's most restricted booking level.
April 7, 2020	An inmate tests positive for COVID-19 after release from Clark County Jail.
April 12, 2020	A corrections deputy tests positive for COVID-19. The deputy had close contact with the inmate who tested positive on April 7.
April 13, 2020	<b>The corrections deputies assigned to the Reentry Program are reabsorbed into the main jail to mitigate overtime for deputies who are sick or on COVID-19 leave.</b> <b>On the same day, Clark County Jail converts H-Pod, previously used for programs, to inmate housing to allow for social distancing. The Reentry Program is temporarily suspended due to lack of staffing. Reentry does not have a reopening date.</b>



## Staying in Touch with Inmates During COVID-19

With the temporary closure of the Reentry Program, mail can be an excellent way to stay in contact with clients during incarceration. See CCSO's website for more detailed information:

<https://www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/inmate-contact-information>

### Sending Mail to Inmates in Clark County Jail:

Inmates are allowed to send and receive mail that complies with United States Postal Service regulations and the Clark County Jail mail rules.

**Incoming mail is to be addressed accordingly** or it will not be delivered.

**All mail is inspected** for items and content restricted by Clark County Jail incoming mail rules.

**The sender's full name and return address must be on the envelope.**

Mail must be addressed with the following information:

Inmate's Name and CFN #  
Clark County Jail  
P.O. Box 1147  
Vancouver, WA 98666-1147

### Examples of Mail Items Not Accepted (see website for full list)

- **Stamps, glitter, stickers or items glued or taped to the envelope or letter**
- Cash or personal checks. Cashier checks and money orders are accepted
- Polaroid type pictures
- Photos or cards larger than 8"x10"
- **Stationery, stamps, or envelopes**
- Padded, musical, electronic, or laminated greeting cards
- Personal correspondence items in envelopes larger than 4 ½" x 9 ½", padded envelopes or packages
- **Non-paper material, including corrugated cardboard**
- Magazines, newspapers, soft cover books, and similar items not sent directly from the publisher, book club, retail bookstore, or recognized internet bookseller. This includes pages from or copies of puzzle books.

Mail containing any controlled or unidentified substances, weapons and/or information of criminal activity will be placed into evidence and forwarded to the appropriate unit for investigation. Introducing contraband into a correctional facility is a felony. Such contraband, activity, or suspected activity will be investigated for criminal prosecution.



*The mission of the Clark County Corrections Branch is to promote and maintain public safety through effective correctional and reentry practices*

## Clark County Jail Backpack Project

Clark County Sheriff's Office  
Jail Reentry Unit  
707 W 13th St  
PO Box 410  
Vancouver, WA 98666

Phone: 564-397-2211 x5872  
Fax: 564-397-2077  
E-mail: [sheriff.reentry@clark.wa.gov](mailto:sheriff.reentry@clark.wa.gov)

### Clark County Jail Reentry Organization:

Chief Corrections Deputy: Ric Bishop  
Ops Commander: Kimberly Beltran  
Reentry Sergeant: Michelle Addie  
Reentry Deputy: Curtis Egbert  
Reentry Deputy: Jay Costello  
Reentry Deputy: Eugene Toman  
Reentry Deputy: Brittney Dietz  
Discharge Planner: Kelly Anderson  
Discharge Planner: Anna Lookingbill



Despite ongoing efforts by community agencies, many persons leave Clark County Jail and release to homelessness.

With the support of community partners, the Reentry team created the **Backpack Project** to provide backpacks, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, tarps and information about local resources.

Special thanks to the **Cascade Benevolence Board, Cascades Presbyterian Church and Council for the Homeless** for making the Backpack Project possible.

## Reentry Provider Meetings



The Reentry Program hosts a quarterly meeting to provide networking and education opportunities for organizations serving adult criminal justice involved clients. Meetings are 10-11 am. 2020 dates:

~~Thursday, January 23~~ — ~~Thursday, April 23~~

~~Thursday, July 23~~      ~~Thursday, October 22 (if possible)~~

Clark County Public Service Center,  
6th Floor, Board of County Councilors Hearing Room  
1300 Franklin St, Vancouver WA 98660

Contact Anna Lookingbill, [anna.lookingbill@clark.wa.gov](mailto:anna.lookingbill@clark.wa.gov)