

	MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
	Subject MEDICAL ISOLATION	Policy Number DQ-2 Effective Date 03-12-24
Related Information CP-6, <i>Bloodborne Pathogens</i> CP-7, <i>Airborne Pathogens</i> DA-5, <i>Inmate Suicide Prevention</i> DI-1, <i>Inmate Housing Categories</i> DI-3, <i>Restrictive Housing Operation</i>	Supersedes DQ-2 (04-22-15)	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Office Policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the medical isolation of inmates.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Office to provide appropriate inmate housing, when necessary, to reduce the spread of infectious and contagious communicable diseases, and to provide housing focused on rehabilitation. Housing inmates based on medical health needs shall be made in the most appropriate and least restrictive environments possible, based on the recommendation of Correctional Health Services (CHS) and Office jail facility security concerns.

DEFINITIONS

Medical Isolation: Removal of an inmate from general population for medical conditions as determined by Correctional Health Services (CHS) personnel.

PROCEDURES

1. **Medical Isolation Housing:** Inmate placement into medical isolation housing shall be determined by Correction Health Services (CHS) personnel following an initial medical screening and evaluation.
 - A. **Receiving Screening:** A CHS intake nurse shall screen each inmate upon arrival to the Intake, Transfer, and Release (ITR) facility regarding both their general health and mental health status. The CHS nurse shall complete a screening questionnaire in the Electronic Health Record (EHR) which includes screening for any symptoms of an infectious or communicable disease the inmate may have.
 1. **Inmate Movement:** If an inmate in Office custody is awaiting movement to a jail facility from another location and is complaining of symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of acute illness, the following shall occur:
 - a. Detention personnel shall contact the shift supervisor and CHS.
 - b. If detention personnel indicate a high suspicion for a possible infectious or communicable disease, CHS personnel will advise detention personnel to provide the inmate with a protective mask and/or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the transport.

- c. Detention personnel shall notify CHS personnel of the inmate's arrival and await further instruction on where to transport the inmate for evaluation.
 2. Protective Masks: Inmates shall be required to wear protective masks when leaving any medical isolation housing for infectious or contagious communicable diseases. Inmates who refuse to wear a protective mask shall not be allowed to leave the medical isolation housing, under any circumstances. If the inmate refusing to wear a mask is scheduled for a court appearance, the respective court shall be notified in a timely manner and shall be informed that the inmate will not be attending court. Legal privileged visitors who choose to come to the Lower Buckeye Jail Infirmary to meet with their clients, shall be offered a protective mask to wear when entering the medical isolation housing area.
- B. Inmate Housing Options: Inmate housing options shall be available to house inmates according to their medical status to reduce the spread of infectious or contagious communicable diseases from other inmates and Office personnel. Only CHS personnel are authorized to place an inmate into medical isolation housing. Medical isolation housing categories are specified as follows:
 1. Medical Isolation: Inmates shall be placed in medical isolation housing as ordered by CHS personnel, when the inmate is suspected of having, or is a carrier of, a communicable disease requiring isolation. Inmates who need to be medically isolated should be housed in the Jail Medical Infirmary whenever possible.
 2. Cohort Housing: A housing unit where asymptomatic inmates are housed for a designated time during initial incarceration. Cohort housing keeps pre-symptomatic/asymptomatic inmates who may be infected with an infectious or contagious communicable disease from interacting with other inmates. Testing is completed based on recommendations from CHS. **Cohort Housing units are NOT on Movement Restriction.**
 3. Medical Observation Housing: A housing unit where inmates with infectious or contagious communicable disease are housed for monitoring of clinical status and for testing of a communicable diseases. Increased infection control measures have been established by CHS and the Office for employees who must come into contact with inmates in Medical Observation housing. **Medical Observation Housing units ARE on Movement Restriction.**
 4. Quarantined Housing: Quarantined restrictions shall not be conducted in housing units unless emergency conditions exist. When an entire housing unit must be quarantined to contain the spread of an infectious or contagious communicable disease, transfers into or out of the housing unit shall not be allowed without the authorization of CHS personnel. When it is necessary to remove an inmate from a quarantined house for security reasons, the inmate shall be restricted in another restrictive housing unit. **Quarantine Housing units ARE on Movement Restriction.**
 5. Medical Restrictive Housing: An inmate shall be placed in Medical Restrictive Housing when the inmate does not show symptoms of an infectious or communicable disease but merely refuses a physical examination or medical testing for ruling out a communicable disease. The medical restrictive housing cells shall be located at the same place as a jail facility's other restrictive housing, such as Administrative Restrictive Housing or Security Restrictive Housing.
 6. Security Restrictive Housing: Shift supervisors may place inmates into Security Restrictive Housing pending assignment to medical isolation housing. Medical housing

for inmates who require a higher level of medical care that cannot be provided in general population housing or restrictive housing units, such as, the Jail Medical Infirmary and the Valleywise Health Medical Center, are specified in Office Policy DI-1, *Inmate Housing Categories*.

- C. Duration of Medical Isolation Housing: Medical Isolation Housing shall not be continued for a period greater than that which is necessary to ensure that the isolated inmate is not infectious, as determined by CHS.
 - 1. CHS shall interview and examine the inmate daily, weekly, and monthly based on the inmate's hourly dayroom access.
 - 2. Removal from medical isolation status occurs when the inmate has satisfied the correctional medical requirement of the Arizona Administrative Code, Title 9, Chapter 6, Article 12 R-9-61203 section 1 or is released from custody.
- 2. Inmate Privileges: Medical Isolation Housing shall not be used as a form disciplinary action. Inmates housed in these areas shall be afforded the same privileges as inmates in general population housing, with the exception of those privileges which must be restricted in accordance with procedures for the control of communicable diseases. Activities which may be restricted include, but are not limited to, recreation, ITS wall telephone calls, or contact with general population inmates.
- 3. Inmate Cells and Office Vehicle Sanitizing:
 - A. Jail facility cells that become contaminated shall be sanitized by housekeeping personnel, prior to further use. All Office personnel shall follow established precautions and use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when dealing with isolated inmates, as specified in Office Policies CP-6, *Bloodborne Pathogens*, and CP-7, *Airborne Pathogens*.
 - B. Office vehicles with gross contamination shall be cleaned and disinfected solely by contracted biohazard cleaning service personnel. The contract vendor should be contacted to coordinate the arrangements.
 - C. If a jail facility cell is found to be grossly contaminated with bodily fluids or human waste, that cell shall be taken out of use until it can be properly cleaned and disinfected. If is not practical or safe for housekeeping personnel to clean and disinfect the cell, a supervisor may contact the contracted biohazard cleaning vender.