

Urgent Steps to Slow the Spread of the Virus in Jails, Prisons and Detention Centers!



Decision-maker	#1 Reduce new detentions	#2 Release people who are detained	#3 Provide re-entry support	#4 Protect those left behind
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<p>Public Health Directors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with sheriffs, district attorneys, judges, mayors, city managers, police chiefs, and detention center administrators or private contractors, to make sure that they are aware of the extreme risk of uncontrolled COVID-19 spread within detention facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Work with sheriffs and district attorneys to identify at-risk people who are detained and clearly communicate the public health rationale for their release. <input type="checkbox"/> Issue a public statement declaring incarceration and detention a public health nuisance and calling for county jails, ICE and any private corporations involved in local contracts to release people who are detained. <input type="checkbox"/> Work with city and county officials to develop plans and allocate resources to make sure that people released from detention have access to housing and other supports needed to stay safe and not recidivate. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop clear standards for prevention, testing, and treatment of people who are incarcerated, including protocols for cleaning and standards for conditions of confinement, and engage in regular inspections and public reporting on conditions within jails, prisons and detention centers. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct and release results of an immediate in-person inquiry and on-site inspection at the jail, prison, or detention center to find out if cases of COVID-19 exist there, how they are being handled and communicated about, and how prevention measures beyond posters telling people to cover their cough are being taken. <input type="checkbox"/> Inform the public and those who are detained what your plans are for addressing an outbreak at the facility.
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<p>Sheriffs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cite and release all those who are eligible under state law rather than booking them <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately suspend arrests and/or booking of individuals suspected of technical parole or probation violation. <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate any and all coordination with ICE and CBP. Our immigrant community deserves to feel safe enough to deal with this crisis without the fear of deportation. During this crisis, ICE detainer requests or “holds” should be suspended. <input type="checkbox"/> Work with public health staff to immediately identify medically vulnerable people in the general population and specifically in the pre-trial population, then coordinate with the District Attorney’s Office to petition the court for their immediate release. This includes, but is not limited to, people age 55 and older, pregnant people, people with compromised immune systems such as: chronic lung conditions, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, asthma, and/or cardiac disease who will be most vulnerable to COVID-19. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a list of all low level offenses to the District Attorney within the next 48 hours so that cases can be reviewed and considered for release. <input type="checkbox"/> Release those who are detained pretrial or for technical probation or parole violations. Click here for a state-by-state chart of the statutory power to release those who are detained during a public health emergency. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop and implement testing protocols for all people who live, work and visit inside jails. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide regular online updates for the public, officials and media on the impact of COVID-19 on people inside the jails, including data on both incarcerated people and staff. <input type="checkbox"/> Make transparent the steps that will be taken to prevent infections, and plans to care for those who become sick. <input type="checkbox"/> This preparation plan should include the frequent and deeper cleaning of transportation vehicles, facilities, clothing, and bedding in all shared and private spaces, as well as the use of more effective disinfectants; ensure incarcerated persons have adequate access to sanitation supplies upon request. <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee access to phone calls, mail and court hearings. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide safe and accessible no contact visitation options to families and defense council, such as no-cost virtual visitation. <input type="checkbox"/> In the interest of justice and public safety, incarcerated people should have access to
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	<p>expedited court hearings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Extend paid sick leave to all employees, including temporary/part-time.<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate any and all medical co-pays or sick call fees.
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Police Chiefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Cite and Release on non-violent offenses rather than booking people and potentially introducing COVID-19 into the jail system.<input type="checkbox"/> Direct law enforcement to cease making custodial arrests to discourage incarceration. The number one goal to ensure public safety is to discourage swelling populations of people sharing space. The highest priority should be in keeping community members out of institutions where an outbreak would spread rapidly<input type="checkbox"/> Repurpose the police to act as a community safety team, one whose main charge is to act compassionately and responsively to the emergency needs of Black, LatinX, Muslim, LGBT+, impoverished, people with disabilities and other often marginalized communities who are often criminalized by police forces and already existing on the fringes of society. This is the most critical position that our law enforcement could take at this time — to instill a sense of hope in crisis.
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<p>District Attorneys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Decline criminal charges whenever possible. For charges not declined, reduce as many as possible to citations or non-warrant, non-arrest charges, with return dates that are at least 6 months from the date of the alleged incident. <input type="checkbox"/> Require prosecutors to provide a public health/COVID-19-informed justification for any actions/requests that would require attendance or transfer into courthouses, jails, and prisons. Ensure those justifications are on the record for public scrutiny. Refuse to ask the court to issue “failure to appear” warrants or, “bench warrants” and agree to jointly waive the appearance of people who are out-of-custody. <input type="checkbox"/> Default to noncustodial sentences wherever possible including resolutions that avoid immigration detention where outbreak potential is highest. <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate for the release of all medically fragile adults and adults over the age of 55 in the interest of justice. Jails house large numbers of people with chronic illnesses and complex medical needs, who are more vulnerable to becoming seriously ill and requiring more medical care with COVID-19. Releasing these vulnerable groups from jail will reduce the need to provide complex medical care or transfers to hospitals when staff will be stretched thin. <input type="checkbox"/> Withdraw the motion to revoke/adjudicate individuals suspected of technical probation violation. <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate for the immediate release of anyone within twenty-four months of completing their sentence and all individuals charged with an offense that does not involve a serious safety risk to a person(s) in the community. By the time most of these new individuals are processed they will most likely be eligible for a program that makes them strong candidates for conditional or actual release. <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately implement a pretrial policy that requires all prosecutors to advocate for the pretrial release of all individuals. <input type="checkbox"/> Work with defense attorneys, the public defender’s office, and courts to ensure that people in custody receive constitutionally-mandated speedy trials.
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<p>Judges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Default to non-custodial sentences including resolutions that avoid immigration detention where outbreak potential is highest. <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the number of in-person court appearances for non-essential issues and low-level cases. -If requested by defense counsel, agree to waive clients’ appearance for status court dates (for people both in and out of custody). <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to issue “failure to appear” warrants or “bench warrants.” <input type="checkbox"/> Cancel all probation, parole, and pretrial meetings; court-ordered classes; in-person drug testing; waive probation/parole collection fees; collection of court debt; and modify all reporting conditions to phone-reporting. <input type="checkbox"/> Cancel probation or parole revocation hearings based on technical violations upon request of defense counsel and release those held in custody pending hearings on signature bonds. <input type="checkbox"/> Require that prosecutors provide public health/COVID-19-informed justification for any actions/requests that would bring people into courthouses, jails, and prisons. Ensure those justifications are on the record for public scrutiny. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the significant risk of mortality and spread of COVID-19 inside custodial facilities, when considering bail applications and post-conviction motions to modify sentences, with documented notations in cases of denial. <input type="checkbox"/> Expedite Hearings to accelerate the release of any and all individuals.
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<p>City/ County Leaders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Issue an urgent statement explaining why adherence to community demands for immediate COVID-19 related changes to the arrest and detention practices of the Sheriff’s Department, District Attorney’s Office and the Courts is vital for the health and safety of the entire city/county. <input type="checkbox"/> Create a plan for vulnerable un-housed residents and recently released individuals with safe and sanitary community-based housing alternatives to protect against the spread of COVID-19. <input type="checkbox"/> Give emergency funding to the County Public Defenders and court appointed attorneys to support getting people out of custody and into housing and support services. <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately institute a 90-day moratorium on any housing and services restrictions based on a history of justice involvement or on immigration status. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and remove barriers to community based organizations accessing county funding to be able to expand their capacity to deliver services. Allocate emergency funding to provide immediate health and human services to address the crisis and support individuals released from custody. Funding should be allocated to implement the following services: <input type="checkbox"/> Require the development of COVID-19 related protocol plans from all relevant county departments and review the efficacy and adequacy of each plan. Provide daily updates on how county officials are taking measures in providing support to individuals inside, and post these on the county website.
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<p>ICE Field Office Director (find out who that is here)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Suspend all community and workplace raids and other enforcement activity Suspend all in-person check-ins appointments <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of local enforcement operations in all locations including but not limited to the community, courthouses, and through the local criminal system <input type="checkbox"/> Release all detained children and adults with underlying risk factors, those held solely on civil immigration violations, and anyone whose health and safety ICE is not able to protect. Suspension of local enforcement operations in all locations including but not limited to the community, courthouses, and through the local criminal system <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately put in place medical safety procedures that provide for the testing of people in custody. For those who need treatment and quarantine this must happen at a hospital, as well as staff and provide adequate supplies and equipment to prevent the spread of the virus. Facilities that fail to meet public health standards must be closed. <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of hygiene supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Screening, testing of the people in your custody <input type="checkbox"/> Quarantining in hospitals and treatment of the people in your custody. <input type="checkbox"/> Access to family and community support
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