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# INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIES

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the CJCC Strategic Planning Committee

**COVID-19 RESPONSE SPECIAL ISSUE**

**MARCH/APRIL 2020**

## **Prosecutors, Defenders, and Courts Responses**

Guidance for preventive and responsive measures to coronavirus

<https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/coronavirus-guidance-prosecutors-defenders-courts.pdf>

The Vera Institute of Justice and Community Oriented Correctional Health Services (COCHS) have created this document to guide in the protection of people who interact with a work in U.S. Corrections, detention, and supervision systems. The guide provides information and recommendations on how to prioritize prevention, contain the possibility of spread, and respond swiftly to active cases while preserving due process.

The National Center for State Courts has released information from various state courts on responses to the Coronavirus to protect the public, while maintaining access to justice. This website posts regular updates.

<https://www.ncsc.org/Newsroom/Public-health-emergency.aspx>

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## **Corrections Responses**

COVID-19 Weekly Roundtable for Law Enforcement and Correctional Health Care Webinar

<https://www.ncchc.org/blog/covid-19-weekly-roundtable-for-law-enforcement-correctional-health-care-webinar>

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care is coordinating experts across the United States to answer questions on COVID-19. The discussion presented on March 20, 2020 focusses on the differences between quarantine and isolation, procedures for if staff members become infected, and for the entry of new detainees into the facility. The website posts regular updates and offers a template for how to develop a COVID-19 Correctional Pandemic Response Plan is available through the above link.

The Vera Institute of Justice has also released a guide for preventive and responsive measures to Coronavirus for jails, prisons, immigration detention, and youth facilities.

<https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/coronavirus-guidance-jails-prisons-immigration-youth.pdf>

The National Institute of Corrections also has a website offering the latest information on the nation's correction system responses to COVID-19: <https://nicic.gov/coronavirus>

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## **County Response Efforts and Priorities**

National Association of Counties Updates

<https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/coronavirus-disease-2019>

NACo is coordinating and communicating community responses to COVID-19, making information on steps counties have taken to address Coronavirus available. This information includes implementation of local transmission mitigation and containment strategies, with focus in areas of health, justice, housing, and other integral areas for all community members, including federal policy resources and agency efforts.

The National Network of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (NNCJCC) and The Justice Management Institute are also organizing responses to COVID-19 by Criminal Justice Systems, providing a wealth of local justice system information by geography and practice area. <http://www.jmijustice.org/covid-19/>

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