

COVID-19. There must be plans in place to regularly screen incarcerated people for illness or exposure to COVID-

13. **Data Collection:** The collection of data regarding COVID-19 will be part of the public health response. As with any contagious disease, data collection is critical to understanding and fighting the virus. The correctional system must be part of this process. The same information that is tracked in the community must be tracked in facilities. The plan should include mechanisms for providing timely data to state, local, and federal health authorities.

14. **Access to Communication.** Systems and facilities must make every effort to protect and

of the virus and the measures being taken to address it. Officials should have a plan to address an anticipated increase in the number of calls from family members seeking information. Facilities should provide regular daily public updates on the number of cases and any fatalities.

Additional Recommendations for Jails:

1. **Lower jail admissions to reduce “jail churn.”** About one-third of the people behind bars are in local jails, but because of the shorter length of stay in jails, more people churn through jails in a day than are admitted or released from state and federal prisons in two weeks. There are many ways for state leaders to reduce jail churn, for example, by: a)

Sincerely,

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