



# YORK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Sheriff William L. King Jr.*

---

## York County Correctional Facility Intake

**To: Law Enforcement Agencies Serviced by the York County Correctional Facility**

**RE: Continuation of Intake Modification (Indefinitely)**

**Date: September 6, 2021**

This is an update from the last Intake Modification that ends today. Regrettably, the delta variant of COVID has caused additional concern for the safety of those that live and work in congregate living settings, such as our correctional facility, regardless of vaccination status. There have been cases where vaccinated individuals have contracted COVID, so our concerns are increased.

Since August of 2020, I've adjusted procedures several times to try and keep this virus from the facility. Due to the recent spike throughout Maine, I believe continuing the current modification is in the best interest of everybody. As you experienced with us, when an outbreak occurs, it has long lasting effects and we do not want to shut down completely, which is typically the recommendation from MeCDC when an outbreak occurs.

Even with the restrictive modification in place we are still receiving a fair number of arrestees. Last week, after their initial appearance, 24 individuals were ordered to be held. Everybody who enters the facility, must be quarantined, regardless of vaccination status – vaccinated individuals have a shorter quarantine period. At present, we only have 3 available cells in the quarantine unit.

Another complicating factor is our vacancy rate - we are still struggling to fill vacancies, as all of you are. We have approximately 40 vacancies and have increased the compensation to a maximum of \$26.30 an hour which includes the night and weekend differentials. Still, it is a long process because we need to recruit and hire the right people. This has placed a strain on current staff, many of whom are routinely working 72 hours per week.

I hope this insight assist you to understand that the intake modification plan will remain in effect indefinitely. I have instructed the jail staff to be as accommodating as they can be to officers who call with a special circumstance for an arrestee who is outside of the modification restrictions. Again, if there is a special circumstance regarding an arrest, the officer should speak with the Intake Supervisor before coming to the facility.

### **Inmate Transfers/Boarders:**

1. No New Boarders from other County Jails without prior approval from Jail Administrator Nathan Thayer or his designee.

**New Arrests Accepted:**

1. Only Felony-Crimes Against person.
2. Assault on a Police Officer.
3. Any Domestic Violence crimes, including WOA's and violations of PFA.
4. Warrants of Arrest-Felony or Misdemeanor.
5. Class A Drug Charges.
6. Any arrest for which a bail commissioner may not set pre-conviction bail as defined in M.R.S.A. Title 15 §1023 (4) – see attached.

**New Arrests Not Accepted:**

1. Misdemeanor Arrests.
2. Motor Vehicle Felonies.
3. Felony Crimes not perpetrated against a person.
4. Self-Reports (Judgements and Commitments)
5. Probation Violations (unless underlying is Felony Crime against a person)

All Law Enforcement Officers and their arrestees are expected to wear OSHA approved masks (KN95, N95, and Surgical Masks). Every inmate is screened medically and, if in the opinion of the screening nurse, the arrestee is medically unfit, whether too intoxicated, unknown injury because of a motor vehicle crash or an altered state of consciousness, they may be asked to take the arrestee to the local hospital to be medically cleared. Additionally, we may conduct a rapid COVID-19 test on an arrestee/inmate prior to entering the jail if they are displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This process, depending on how busy intake is, could take 15-20 minutes for a result.

I realize this is a difficult position to take, but I trust you understand. Thank you for your continued cooperation –

*William L. King Jr.*

William L. King, Jr.  
Sheriff of York County