

# Sheriff Tracy Murphree



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DENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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As a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, efforts have been taken to mitigate the risks of an outbreak at the Denton County Jail. Please find below a list of measures we have instituted:

**03/11 – Purchased N-95 masks, additional gloves and alcohol wipes (approximately 2,000 masks).**

**03/13 – The central Booking area is being sanitized three times each shift. Hand soap and sanitizer is available at the entrance of the booking facility. Inmates being booked are checked in first at the Medical window and checked for fever through the Wello Station. Inmates with a temperature of 100.5 or higher (the normal standard) will not enter the facility without outside medical clearance. Jail staff always use gloves, but they are not wearing masks as part of normal operations. Once inside the jail facility inmates are screened by medical staff. Inmates would only be fitted with masks if a medical official in the jail thinks it is necessary and they fit the criteria for possible virus. Trustees are instructed to wipe down all areas of the jail with disinfectants at least once each shift (minimum of three times a day). Trustees also mop and clean with germicide acids many times a day.**

**03/13 – Began installation of video equipment in the Detention Courtroom for video arraignments to begin on Monday, 03/16. All District and County Court Judges worked together so pleas could be done in the courtroom.**

**03/13 – An order was received from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to suspend all inmate face-to-face visitation. Attorney visitation will be the only exception.**

**03/16 – Began holding plea hearings inside the Detention Courtroom. All attorneys had their temperatures checked and a metal detector wand was used to clear them for entrance before being escorted to the courtroom for hearings. Bailiffs were there to fingerprint inmates and sign paperwork to take to the original judge.**

**03/16 - All persons entering the Sheriff's Office facility, including employees, contractors, attorneys, etc. are having their temperature taken. Those with a temperature of 100.5 are not allowed inside. Note: On 03/17 the threshold was changed to 99.5 degrees or higher.**

**03/17 – Received a recommendation from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards regarding the screening of all new inmates and general guidelines for food service workers, outside trusty workers, etc.**

**03/18 – Contacted Wello to purchase ten (10) more Wello Stations (contactless temperature readers). Received quote on 03/21 for \$118,000. 10 Wello stations were ordered.**

**03/19 – An order was received from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to suspend all inmate Education and Rehabilitation programs.**

**03/19 – Suspended all outside volunteer workers from entering the detention facility.**

**03/19 – Phones in the Attorney-client visitation areas of the Specialized Housing Unit were repaired in order to limit contact between attorneys and inmates. A process was established to facilitate conferences**

**between attorneys and their clients in the SHU visitation area as well as allowing for the signing of plea agreement papers.**

**03/19 – Judge Shanklin agreed to facilitate the suspension of all work-release inmates as a condition of probation. All work-release inmates were suspended on 03/23. During a conference call with local Police Chiefs a reduction of non-violent offenders being brought into facility was requested.**

**03/19 – Time off requests for DCSO employees are being limited and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.**

**03/20 – Met with County Court Judges in order to implement a PR bond process for certain non-violent crimes. Also established guidelines for not confirming any new misdemeanor warrants with the exception of a list of violent offenses that were agreed upon by the judges.**

**03/20 – Sworn deputies from Operations Sections that were no longer able to perform normal duties due to ongoing emergency operations were reassigned to supplement jail staff.**

**03/24 – Suspended all trustees from working outside the facility.**

**03/25 – All onsite public Video Visitation was cancelled in order to limit exposure between the public. HomeWav agreed to provide all inmates two (2) free twenty (20) minute home video visits per week.**

**03/26 - POD 23 was designated for initial male housing and POD 7 for females. The new inmates will be isolated in these PODS and will remain isolated for 14 days after the date the POD was full. A Second POD was established to house new inmates after POD 23 was full. This second POD will be operate under the same procedures.**

**03/27 – The new inmate POD's began operations.**

**Inmates are supplied with soap and have access to hand sanitizer.**

**The Jail population has been reduced over 200 inmates since implementation of the new procedures. We have had no cases of COVID-19 in the facility.**

**Tracy Murphree  
Denton County Sheriff**