



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Kevin A. Carr

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DOC Provides KN95 Masks for Staff and Persons in Their Care

Madison, Wis. - The Wisconsin Department of Corrections recently supplied all of its institutions with thousands of KN95 masks, enough to provide 10 each to every person in DOC care and staff member at the agency's correctional facilities. DOC is also providing education and encouraging use of these free masks as the best means to protect those in our care, DOC staff and surrounding communities from the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [recently updated its guidance](#) on face coverings to clarify that some types of masks and respirators provide more protection than others, especially against the more-contagious Omicron variant.

“Our agency has and will continue to rely on the guidance of the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in our COVID-19 mitigation efforts,” said DOC Secretary Kevin Carr. “I want to highlight the work of our Emergency Operations team and our Division of Adult Institutions in continuing to ensure our facilities have the necessary PPE.”

Wisconsin DOC continues to emphasize, to both staff and persons in its care, the importance of good hygiene, face coverings and vaccination to protect against COVID-19. The agency has seen increasing COVID-19 cases since the start of December.

KN95 masks do not have to be discarded after each use. While there is not hard number for how many times these masks can be worn, health experts have advised they are wearable as long as the elastic bands continue to secure a good fit, and if the material is clean and provides good airflow. If the mask is dirty, thinning, damaged, hard to breathe through or no longer provides a good seal around the face, it should no longer be used.