DATE:      May 26, 2020

TO:        Division of Adult Institutions Staff
           Division of Community Corrections Staff

FROM:      Makda Fessahaye, Administrator, Division of Adult Institutions
           Lance Wiersma, Administrator, Division of Community Corrections

SUBJECT:   Release of Persons in our Care

Effective, Monday, June 1, 2020, all persons in our care releasing into the community shall be tested for COVID-19 at least one week (7 calendar days) before their release. Division of Adult Institutions’ social workers and healthcare professionals and Division of Community Corrections’ agents shall work together to explore alternate release plans for individuals releasing into the community that may test positive for COVID-19 if the plan in place raises safety concerns. Additionally, all persons in our care releasing into the community will have the ability to release with face masks previously issued to them by the Department of Corrections.

The Department of Corrections takes the safety and health of the persons in our care, staff, and the public seriously. Managing the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities remains our number one priority as an agency. The DOC continues to work with DHS, review the CDC guidelines, and take additional steps necessary to help persons in our care and staff maintain their health and safety.