



## **The Impact of COVID-19 on Incarcerated Persons**

The spread of the Coronavirus poses a significant risk to those incarcerated in public and private prisons all around the country. Almost all the concerns about Coronavirus's spread in packed social settings apply to a greater degree in correctional facilities. There is little to no space for social distancing or similar recommendations experts make to combat Coronavirus. Such an outbreak could not only infect and kill hundreds or thousands of people in prison but potentially spread to nearby communities as well. It can have a devastating impact in the U.S, which currently has the highest number of incarcerated persons in the world. Correctional officers and staff, thousands of whom are represented by CWA, are facing a higher level of risk.

Public safety advocates have called on the Justice Department, the Department of Corrections, the Federal Bureau of Prisons and state and local governments to take necessary steps such as early release for inmates with non-violent and drug-related offenses, making handwashing and otherwise good hygiene easier for inmates and prison staff, cancelation of activities or programming, etc. In addition, CWA has made several resources available for members who have concerns about the risks they face at the workplace on the [national website](#).

### **Available Resources**

- [Coronavirus/COVID-19 Information for CWA Members](#)
- [Open Letter: ACLU Demands the Release From Prisons and Jails of Communities Vulnerable to COVID-19](#)

### **Actions/Campaigns**

- [PETITION: Protect Incarcerated Communities From Covid-19](#)
- [PETITION: Stop the Spread of COVID-19: Release Vulnerable Communities from Immigrant Detention, Jails, and Prisons](#)
- [NEW: Demand state and federal lawmakers end the use of private prisons and protect incarcerated people from COVID-19](#)
- [NEW: Humanity Not Cages: Demand a Just and Humane Response to COVID-19](#)