


# TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Brandon S. Wood



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## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

**To: All Sheriff & Jail Administrators**  
**From: Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director**   
**Date: July 15, 2020**  
**RE: Transport of inmates to TDCJ**

As the entire state of Texas continues to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, correctional agencies must remain vigilant and take all steps necessary to limit the exposure of this virus to staff and inmates. Earlier this month, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) began a limited intake of offenders from county jails utilizing new screening protocols.

The TDCJ is requesting your cooperation with additional screening precautions at the local level. Jail staff shall take the temperature of inmates and document the reading before they are placed on county or TDCJ vehicles for transport to a TDCJ intake facility. Should the individual have a body temperature of 100.0 F or higher, the inmate shall not be transported to the TDCJ until the temperature recedes for three consecutive days. Inmates with a temperature of 100.0 F or higher or those exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of their medical triage will not be admitted into the facility. Similarly, offenders who are currently on quarantine, are symptomatic and/or pending the results of a COVID-19 test shall not be sent to TDCJ.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice is also requiring that counties mask offenders during the transport to TDCJ facilities. TDCJ will be sending counties a supply of surgical masks sufficient to cover state ready offenders pending transfer to TDCJ. During the scheduling of the intake process, the agency will inquire if you have masks available for this purpose. If not, an allotment will be provided specifically for transporting inmates to TDCJ.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within correctional facilities.