



## Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot  
Sheriff of Yuma County

141 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364  
Tel: (928) 783-4427 • Fax: (928) 539-7837  
www.yumacountysheriff.org

# PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Lt. Sam Pavlak  
Phone: (928) 783-4427  
DR# N/A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## YCSO Procedures for COVID-19 Management

**Location of Incident:** Yuma County Sheriff's Office, 141 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue – Yuma, AZ

During March 2020, Sheriff Leon Wilmot began setting guidelines for the Sheriff's Office in reference to safety and security of staff, the public, and prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the guidelines include safety measures to include staff remaining at home if ill, daily sanitation and disinfection of all facilities and equipment, limitation of non-county employees within any facilities, washing/sanitizing hands, as well as practicing social distancing whenever possible.

Specialty equipment, to include disinfecting fogging systems, were purchased and have been utilized in all Sheriff's Office facilities. Sanitation and fogging occurs on a daily basis.

Deputies and Detention Staff who are in direct contact with the public and prisoners were provided additional personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, eye protection, and sanitation items. Additional masks were also provided specifically for prisoners who were placed in isolation, who were feeling ill, or displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Any staff members within the secured area of the Detention Center are required to wear masks at all times.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office is informing the public of confirmed COVID-19 cases by staff members and prisoners.

Since Sheriff Wilmot's guidelines were implemented in March, there have been 13 Detention staff members with "positive" COVID-19 laboratory test results within the Yuma County Detention Center. Of those 13 positive cases, 4 were Detention Officers assigned within the Detention Center and 9 were support staff members with no direct prisoner contact. There have also been 2 Deputies with "positive" COVID-19 laboratory test results. All staff members who have had positive tests quarantined at home and are recovering well. To date, 8 of those staff members have received return to work orders from their physician.

From March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, there have been 1,021 new bookings into the Yuma County Detention Center with an average daily prisoner population of 390. All new bookings, regardless if they are positive for COVID-19 or not, are placed in an isolated unit for a period of 14 days. They receive a medical screening that includes a head to toe assessment in line with protocols set forth by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

To date there have been 2 prisoners with confirmed “positive” COVID-19 laboratory test results while in custody. Both prisoners are still currently in custody and are under quarantine in an isolated unit away from other prisoners. Both are recovering well.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to let the public know that the safety of our staff, the persons within our custody, and the public is of the highest priority. The Sheriff’s Office currently requires any persons coming to one of our facilities to conduct business to wear a face mask covering their mouth and nose.

The Sheriff’s Office will continue to follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS), and the Yuma County Health Department.

For updates and current information pertaining to COVID-19 in Yuma County, please visit the Yuma County website at [www.yumacountyaz.gov](http://www.yumacountyaz.gov) and click the Yuma County COVID-19 / Coronavirus 2019 link.

**Information Released By:** Lt. Samuel Pavlak, Public Information Officer