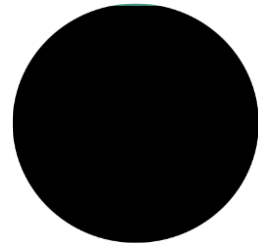


February 26, 2021

Via Certified Mail

Doctors for Camp Closure is a national nonpartisan organization of healthcare professionals that opposes the inhumane detention of immigrants and asylum-seekers in the United States.

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ICDC staff's failure to implement proper COVID-19 health and safety precautions exacerbate the already inhumane conditions inside the facility.

COVID-19 Risks & Concerns

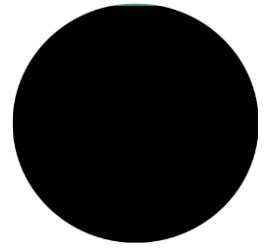
Detention facilities, like the jails and prisons in which they are housed, are often crowded and unsanitary, have poor ventilation, lack adequate access to hygienic materials such as soap and water or hand sanitizers, and fail to adhere to recognized standards for prevention, screening, and containment of transmittable diseases. The frequent transfer of people in detention from one location to another, and intake of new immigrants from the larger community places further obstacles to diagnosis of infection as well as complicating the recognition of an outbreak and interruption of transmission.

For these reasons, transmission of respiratory diseases in jails and prisons is incredibly common. It is estimated that up to a quarter of the US prison population has been infected with tuberculosis,¹ with a rate of active TB infection that is 6-10 times higher than the general population.² Flu outbreaks are regular occurrences in jails and prisons across the United States.³ Past outbreaks of mumps, influenza, and varicella have spread throughout immigration detention facilities, for instance 5 cases of mumps in September 2018 ballooned to nearly 900 cases among staff and people in detention by August 2019 in 57 facilities across 19 states.⁴

The latest literature on COVID-19 defines close contacts to include multiple brief encounters within six feet, totaling 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period. Of note is the fact that the CDC considers close contacts with or without a mask as being of equal risk since the general public has not had

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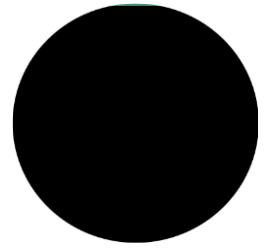
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by ICE at these facilities are among the most vulnerable, many with chronic diseases which place them at increased risk of complication and even death. Considering the immediate threat of the COVID-19 epidemic and the unique vulnerabilities of immigrants in ICE detention, it is impossible to ensure a “safe, secure and humane environ

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