



COVID-19 and Seasonal Influenza: Interim Guidance for Health Care and Public Health Providers

APPENDIX 15: PROVIDER SCRIPT – OFFERING CELL HOUSING TO PATIENTS AT HIGH RISK OF SEVERE COVID-19

Hello Mr./Ms. _____,

You probably heard that CDCR and the rest of the world are trying to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I want to talk to you today about possibly moving to different housing or to a different institution, to try to reduce your risk of getting sick from this virus.

You might know that COVID-19 is spread mostly from one person to another, especially when they are less than 6 feet apart. The virus is found in droplets that come out of a person's nose or mouth when they cough, sneeze, talk, sing, or laugh. Sometimes the drops of virus land on a surface like a doorknob or a table, and then if a person touches the surface, they can pick up the virus. Cloth masks, hand-washing, and cleaning surfaces can help keep the spread down, but it is also important to stay away from other people as much as possible.

Many people, especially those who are younger and have no medical problems, are able to fight the COVID-19 virus and do not get very sick. But some people who are older, or who have medical problems, are at a higher risk of getting very sick or even dying if they catch the virus.

We are worried about you because of [your age/your medical problems].

We believe moving you from a dorm to a cell will lower the chances of you getting sick with COVID-19. It is a higher risk for an older person or a person with medical problems to live with a lot of people, even if everyone in your dorm is wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping things clean.

You might feel safe in the dorm right now because there are no cases of the virus or only a few cases of the virus at your institution. The problem is that once the virus comes to a prison, it can spread very fast, especially in the dorms where many people are living close together.

We have cells available right now here at PRISON NAME (if no available cell in the home institution: We do not have an available cell here at PRISON NAME, however, there are available cells in PRISON NAME that you can transfer temporarily) and are offering you one while you are still healthy. In a cell, away from so many people, you have a much better chance of not getting the virus and staying alive. Although moving does not guarantee you won't get the virus, it makes it less likely.

I was notified that X cell in X housing unit/X yard at X facility is being offered to you.

OR

I'm not sure of the exact location of the cell that custody has available. I will let them know you are willing to consider a move, but that you need the specifics before deciding on whether to accept a transfer to cell housing or not.

At this time, you are not required to move from a dorm to a cell, but it may be safer for you if you do move. If you decide to move, we don't know when it might be safe to return to dorm housing.

Moving to a cell is your choice. Do you have any questions about why we are offering you a cell?

[If more information is desired, offer the patient education handout on COVID-19 and Housing.]

If the patient declines the cell:

Please sign this refusal form (CDCR Form 7225) that says you understand the higher risk of staying in the dorms during the COVID-19 pandemic but want to stay there anyway.

If you change your mind, let me know by putting in a 7362 or talk to nursing staff as soon as possible because the cells may run out.