

COVID-19 Survey Results: Taylorville Correctional Center

The John Howard Association (JHA) is an independent citizen correctional oversight organization that goes into prisons to monitor conditions of confinement and treatment of people who are incarcerated; we fight for a fair and humane system and for government transparency and accountability. For 119 years we have been the eyes and ears of the public inside Illinois' prisons, reporting what we see, hear and learn inside facilities and using this information to recommend policy and practice changes and advocate for system reform.

It is critical that we know and understand how people in prison are experiencing the COVID-19 health crisis and what the government must do to meet the health needs of people in prison. To further this end, JHA launched a special system-wide COVID-19 survey to enable us to hear directly from those who are in prisons about prison conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey results reported herein indicate how 467 people imprisoned at Taylorville Correctional Center responded to survey items contained within the COVID-19 survey during the time frame of April 24th to May 20th 2020. As of April 24th, 2020, there were 955 people imprisoned at Taylorville. Thus, this sample of survey respondents consists of 48.9% of Taylorville's prison population. COVID-19 surveys that were completed after May 20th will be accounted for in JHA's work and analyses conducted in the future, but are not reported below.

JHA provided prison administrators with enough survey packets (COVID-19 survey, informed consent notice/instruction sheet, and business reply envelope addressed to JHA) so that every person imprisoned at Taylorville had an opportunity to participate in the COVID-19 survey if they chose to do so. Because some people who submitted a survey did not answer all questions within the survey, the count of people who responded to each question is less than the overall sample of 467.

The results of the surveys JHA collected from people imprisoned at Taylorville Correctional Center are tabulated on the pages that follow.

Tables of Results by Individual Survey Items:

Q1: How did you get information from IDOC about COVID 19 prevention?		
Paper bulletin on unit	341	73.02%
Inmate info channel on TV	135	28.91%
Verbal communication by staff	50	10.71%
Other	56	11.99%
I did not get this information	15	3.21%
Total does not add to 100% for this question because more than one answer could be selected		

Q2: Did you have enough soap to regularly wash your hands in the last week?		
No	70	15.18%
Yes	374	81.13%
Unsure	17	3.69%
Total	461	100%
No response: 6 (1.28%)		

Q3: How often did you get cleaning chemicals from IDOC to clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week (examples: soap, bleach, Citral Green or peroxide)?		
Once a day	137	30.58%
2 to 3 times last week	43	9.60%
Once last week	105	23.44%
None	163	36.38%
Total	448	100%
No response: 19 (4.07%)		

Q4: Did you get enough cleaning chemicals to thoroughly clean your cell/sleeping area in the last week?		
No, I did not get enough to make cell clean	113	24.78%
Yes	162	35.53%
Unsure	38	8.33%
No, I did not get any cleaning chemicals	143	31.36%
Total	456	100%
No response: 11 (2.36%)		

Q5: Did the common areas you have access to get cleaned at least two times a day in the last week (examples: dayrooms, showers)?		
No	57	12.45%
Some areas cleaned, but not all	174	37.99%
Yes, all areas were cleaned	203	44.32%
Unsure	24	5.24%
Total	458	100%
No response: 9 (1.93%)		

Q6: Have you tried to get medical care because of COVID-19 in the last week?		
No, because I did not want to	18	3.97%
No, because I was not sick	404	89.18%
Yes, but no response from staff	24	5.30%
Yes, and staff responded	7	1.55%
Total	453	100%
No response: 14 (3.00%)		

Q7: Would you tell IDOC staff (medical or security) if you were sick because of COVID-19?		
No	49	10.79%
Yes	356	78.41%
Unsure	49	10.79%
Total	454	100%
No response: 13 (2.78%)		

Q8: Did you go to yard at least once in the last week?		
No, not allowed to	56	12.25%
No, did not want to	132	28.88%
Yes	269	58.86%
Total	457	100%
No response: 10 (2.14%)		

Q9a: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?		
No	178	39.64%
Yes	158	35.19%
Unsure	113	25.17%
Total	449	100%
No response: 18 (3.85%)		

Q9b: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by covering their mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	233	51.89%
Yes	138	30.73%
Unsure	78	17.37%
Total	449	100%
No response: 18 (3.85%)		

Q9c: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	247	55.38%
Yes	123	27.58%
Unsure	76	17.04%
Total	446	100%
No response: 21 (4.50%)		

Q9d: Did the inmates around you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	303	67.48%
Yes	105	23.39%
Unsure	41	9.13%
Total	449	100%
No response: 18 (3.85%)		

Q10a: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by washing your hands often?		
No	5	1.10%
Yes	449	98.46%
Unsure	2	0.44%
Total	456	100%
No response: 11 (2.36%)		

Q10b: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by covering your mouth with inside of arm when coughing/sneezing?		
No	13	2.86%
Yes	436	96.04%
Unsure	5	1.10%
Total	454	100%
No response: 13 (2.78%)		

Q10c: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?		
No	91	20.27%
Yes	343	76.39%
Unsure	15	3.34%
Total	449	100%
No response: 18 (3.85%)		

Q10d: Did you follow good health practices in the last week by staying at least 6 feet away from others when possible?		
No	184	41.26%
Yes	240	53.81%
Unsure	22	4.93%
Total	446	100%
No response: 21 (4.50%)		

Q11: Could you take a shower at least 3 times last week?		
No	12	2.61%
Yes	447	97.39%
Total	459	100%
No response: 8 (1.71%)		

Q12: Did you get laundry service in the last week (whites and blues)?		
No, was not offered	14	3.09%
No, do not want to use laundry service	1	0.22%
Yes, and my laundry was cleaned	376	83.00%
Yes, but they did not use detergent	62	13.69%
Total	453	100%
No response: 14 (3.00%)		

Q13: Did you get at least one free phone call in the last week?		
No	255	57.30%
Yes	110	24.72%
Yes, but the call cut out early	6	1.35%
This does not apply to me	74	16.63%
Total	445	100%
No response: 22 (4.71%)		

Q14: Did you get a free video visit in the last week?		
No	189	42.47%
Yes, and it worked	55	12.36%
Yes, but bad service/ cut short	48	10.79%
This does not apply to me	153	34.38%
Total	445	100%
No response: 22 (4.71%)		

Q15: Could you send and get mail in the last week?		
No	23	5.09%
Yes	412	91.15%
This does not apply to me	17	3.76%
Total	452	100%
No response: 15 (3.21%)		

Q16: Did commissary run on schedule this week?		
Yes, full shop	194	42.54%
Yes, limited shop	202	44.30%
Yes, but not my unit's shop week	12	2.63%
No	48	10.53%
Total	456	100%
No response: 11 (2.36%)		