



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Corrections*

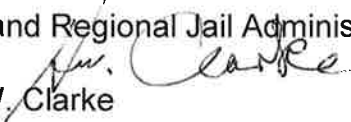
HAROLD W. CLARKE  
DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 26963  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261  
(804) 674-3000

March 16, 2020

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Sheriffs and Regional Jail Administrators

From: Harold W. Clarke 

Subject: COVID-19 and Jail Intake

Based on Thursday's declaration of a state of emergency by Governor Northam and after consultation with the Virginia Department of Health about COVID-19, I have decided to suspend the intake of offenders into Virginia Department of Corrections facilities for the next 30 days. This decision is made in interest of safety and in an effort to take proper precautions to reduce the risk of potential exposure to the coronavirus.

The Virginia Department of Corrections will continue to monitor updates from the Virginia Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and will resume intake as soon as it is safe to do so. At that time, the Department will maximize our intake efforts to relieve any backlog that develops in the interim.

I appreciate your understanding during these unprecedented times.