

**CAMERON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INCREASED
PROTECT FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF PEOPLE IN PRIVATE
DETENTION AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

**STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of the County of Cameron, Texas, as the governing authority, is empowered to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents including those in detention and correctional facilities, employees, businesses, and visitors within the County; and

WHEREAS, the grouping of people inside jails, prisons, and detention centers puts the collective health of Cameron County at risk. Facility staff and people newly detained or recently transferred can spark outbreaks by bringing the virus into facilities, while staff can take it back to their communities when they go home; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court recognizes that Immigration and Customs Enforcement need direction and assistance in adequately responding to contagious diseases and providing proper care for people in custody; and

WHEREAS, social distancing practices, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cannot be enforced in detention centers, prisons, and jails; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court recommends detention and correctional facilities the immediate release of all people under the custody of detention, prison, and jails as the appropriate measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Commissioners Court of Cameron County that:

1. The Cameron County recommends the local health department be allowed to monitor and receive reporting of testing of individuals under Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 identified as a priority 1-3 as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. Based upon information provided to the County by ICE, the county should prepare and submit an inquiry to the County Health Department regarding the number of COVID-19 tests being administered in immigrant detention facilities for people locally held under ICE custody.
3. Any private detention facility with more than 20 of employees shall comply with, and adhere to prescreening for COVID-19 before shifts.

4. Cameron County recommends all immigrant detention facilities to provide information to people under their custody on mental health to help cope with the stresses caused by the COVID-19 emergency.
5. County staff shall work with the immigrant detention facilities, County health department, and other public and private organizations to make local COVID-19 testing available as testing capabilities are expanded, and to ensure the people in detention are aware of those opportunities.
6. Cameron County staff shall provide educational information and guidance on managing COVID-19 for immigrant detention facilities' staff and people under custody within the County limits, including what individuals can do if they suspect they are infected.