

Toolkit Frame: #CDCRLies & More People Will Die

The COVID-19 pandemic is growing at an alarming rate inside California women's prisons. In Central California Women's Facility (CCWF), one of the largest women's prisons in the world, cases are snowballing following escalating staff cases and a transfer from a private prison. Within 1 week, over half the prison, about 1200 people, were potentially exposed. In the same week, CIW reported a second preventable outbreak, with 120 new cases.

CDCR says they have the pandemic under control, yet at-risk incarcerated people are being housed with confirmed positive people, staff routinely refuse to wear mandated masks, and incarcerated people are threatened with disciplinary infractions for taking safety precautions. This is willful negligence. This toolkit provides action items and sample scripts to participate in the campaign: bit.ly/CDCRLies.

⚡ Phone/Email Zap ⚡

1. Rapidly release ALL medically-vulnerable, at-risk, & elderly people regardless of conviction, 2. End transfers btwn prisons, jails & ICE, 3. Test all incarcerated people who want and ensure safe quarantine housing for people exposed & who've tested positive for COVID-19. 4. Enforce mask use by CDCR staff & testing of all staff. 5. Provide urgently needed healthcare including mental health care, 6. Stop forcing incarcerated people to work & risk exposure

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There are 10 full demands articulated by incarcerated comrades. CCWP condensed those demands into 6 primary demands for phone/email script. All 10 demands are included in individual graphics to ensure incarcerated voices stay front and center. The [bit.ly](https://bit.ly/COVIDdemands) links to all 10 demands with additional contextual framing on resistance inside.

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#1

**End transfers from other facilities,
including private facilities like McFarland.**

**Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands**

@C_C_W_P

Example Corresponding Tweets (included in social media toolkit)

.@CACorrections says they have the pandemic under control, yet after the transfer of a single positive person & staff refusing to wear masks, 1/2 of Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) were potentially exposed, ~1200 ppl. Call @GavinNewsom & CDCR to demand #MassReleaseNow

.@CACorrections Sgt told an incarcerated woman that "she has less of a risk of catching COVID on the bottom bunk because everything travels up." We have #NoConfidenceinCDCR & #CDCRLies. Act now @GavinNewsom to #BringThemHome & stop preventable deaths bit.ly/COVIDdemands

.@GavinNewsom claims he's taking action to stop the spread of #COVID19 in CA women's prisons, but his releases exclude many vulnerable & elderly people. #ActNowNewsom & offer relief w/o carveouts based on conviction. #EmergencyReleaseNow #BringThemHome bit.ly/COVIDdemands

.@CACorrections prevented incarcerated people in "quarantine" isolation from talking to their loved ones, telling people that phones were "broken", then later turning them back on. #CDCRLies - we must safely quarantine ppl for recovery/healing, not punishment. bit.ly/COVIDdemands

.@CACorrections asks us to trust them to handle the spread of #COVID19 in prisons, yet a guard reported that fellow guards won't follow his instructions to sanitize rooms between ppl: "I'm fighting against people who are not even trying to help me" #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

Demand #1:

Despite the rampant outbreak of COVID-19 across CA prisons, @CACorrections continues to transfer people between facilities, ensuring the pandemic continues to spread, endangering thousands of incarcerated people. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#2

Stop housing people that have been potentially exposed in group "quarantine" with people that have tested positive, especially people on CPAP breathing machines. Release people back to General Population after they test negative for COVID-19.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#3

Stop housing people with disciplinary write-ups with confirmed positive cases.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#4

Treat quarantined people with dignity:
Sanitize group "quarantine" units daily, allow weekly laundry, issue new & sufficient clothes & undergarments upon arrival in quarantine, & provide more time to access showers & phones.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

Example Corresponding Tweets (included in social media toolkit)

Demand #2:

.@CACorrections says they're safely quarantining people, and yet, they're housing ppl potentially exposed w/ COVID+ ppl in group "quarantine". People are returned to general prison population without testing. CDCR policies are inconsistent & deadly. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

.@CACorrections asks us to trust them to stop the spread of #COVID19, but incarcerated people report sharing the same showers, food trays & air-ventilation system with people who have tested positive. This is negligent & dangerous. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

Demand #3:

.@CACorrections says they're safely quarantining people, and yet, they are punishing people with disciplinary infractions by housing them w/ people who have tested positive for #COVID19. A rule violation shouldn't be a death sentence. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

Demand #4:

@CACorrections asks us to trust them to handle the explosion of #COVID19 inside state prisons, yet they deny incarcerated ppl disinfecting supplies & do not sanitize shared spaces, such as showers, drinking fountains & bathrooms. #CDCRLies #BringThemHome bit.ly/COVIDdemands

.@CACorrections says they're stopping the spread of #COVID19, but incarcerated people are being "quarantined" collectively & report only being given toilet paper, pads & tampons to clean their cells, while guards ransack their rooms. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#5

Enforce staff mask use, issue replacement masks and N95 masks to positive cases.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#6

Communicate and uphold policies, procedures, and program schedules in writing so incarcerated people know what to expect.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#7

Distribute medication on time & provide physical & mental health care to anyone in quarantine, on request.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

Example Corresponding Tweets (included in social media toolkit)

Demand #5:

.@CACorrections says they are distributing adequate PPE, yet people inside are being issued masks covered in carcinogenic flame retardant. "When I soaked it to disinfect it, the water turn bright orange" an incarcerated woman reports. bit.ly/COVIDdemands #CDCRLies

.@CACorrections asks us to trust them to stop the spread of #COVID19, but guards are returning to work while awaiting #COVID19 test results, potentially exposing more people inside. This, alongside guards refusal to wear masks, could endanger thousands. bit.ly/COVIDdemands

Demand #6:

.@CACorrections says they're safely quarantining people, yet the Medical CEO ordered that no one may see mental health unless they are suicidal. One woman reports that "we never know what to expect. There is never communication. Nobody ever has an answer."

Demand #7:

.@CACorrections says they're safely quarantining people, and yet, people inside report limited to no access to necessary medical & mental health support. 1 individual has 2nd-degree burns. Her requests to change her dressings are repeatedly denied. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#8

Stop penalizing incarcerated people who refuse to risk exposure by working.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#9

Shut down all non-essential jobs & RESPECT & reduce the number of incarcerated essential workers.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

People in CA Women's Prisons Demand

#10

Allow prompt access to quarterly packages and purchased food to prevent spoilage.

Full List of Demands & Phone Zap Info:
bit.ly/COVIDdemands

@C_C_W_P

Example Corresponding Tweets (included in social media toolkit)

Demand #8:

.@CACorrections asks us to trust them to handle the spread of COVID in prisons while they punish people, including those with preexisting conditions, for refusing to report to work alongside people who've been exposed to #COVID19. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

.@CACorrections claims to be performing adequate #COVID19 testing, but exposed staff cont. working in the kitchen w/o testing & incarcerated kitchen workers are being punished for not reporting to work. Stop punishing people for trying to stay safe. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

Demand #9:

In the height of a pandemic, @CACorrections launched a non-essential drug program & forced incarcerated people to work it. Before the program even opened a staff had tested positive & all incarcerated workers were exposed. #CDCRLies #BringThemHome bit.ly/COVIDdemands

Demand #10:

Quarterly packages and purchased items are the only ways some incarcerated people access necessary food and hygiene products. @CACorrections can't use the pandemic as an excuse to deny people basic needs. #CDCRLies bit.ly/COVIDdemands

CA women's prisons are on the verge of becoming the latest COVID-19 hotspots

Within a week of CCWF's first reported positive incarcerated case, half of the prison, ~1200 people, were potentially exposed. In the same week, CIW reported 120 new cases.

PHONE ZAP ⚡

State officials remain complacent as CA Dept. of Corrections' willful negligence kills

TAKE URGENT ACTION #CDCRLies

@C_C_W_P

CDCR says they have the pandemic under control and yet:

- At-risk incarcerated people are being housed with people with confirmed positive cases
- Staff routinely refuse to wear masks
- Incarcerated people are threatened with write-ups for taking safety precautions
- Non-essential programming began &, when staff tested positive, dozens were exposed

#CDCRLies & More People Will Die

CALL/EMAIL TO DEMAND

SCRIPT: My name is ____ and, alongside incarcerated people in women's prisons, I demand CDCR & state officials:

- 1 Rapidly release ALL medically-vulnerable, at-risk, & elderly people regardless of conviction
- 2 End transfers between prisons, jails & ICE detention
- 3 Test all incarcerated people who want and ensure safe quarantine housing for people exposed and who've tested positive for COVID-19
- 4 Enforce mask use by CDCR staff & testing of all staff
- 5 Provide urgently needed healthcare including mental health care
- 6 Stop forcing incarcerated people to work and risk exposure

Full List of Demands: bit.ly/COVIDdemands

TARGETS

CCWF Ombudsperson Sara Smith

sara.smith@cdcr.ca.gov

Dir. of Healthcare Services: Joseph Bick

joseph.bick@cdcr.ca.gov

Fed. Healthcare Receiver Clark Kelso

916.739.7000, ckelso@pacific.edu

Governor Newsom

916.445.2841

CDCR Secretary Ralph Diaz

916.324.7308, press 8 & leave message

leave comment or email courtney@womenprisoners.org with what response you receive

Full Demands from Incarcerated Comrades

- 1** End transfers from other facilities, including private facilities like McFarland.
- 2** Stop housing people that have been potentially exposed in group “quarantine” with people that have tested positive, especially people on CPAP breathing machines. Release people back to General Population after they test negative for COVID-19.
- 3** Stop housing people with disciplinary write-ups with confirmed positive cases.
- 4** Treat quarantined people with dignity: Sanitize group “quarantine” units daily, allow weekly laundry, issue new and sufficient clothes and undergarments upon arrival in quarantine, & provide more time to access showers & phones.

@C_C_W_P

Full Demands from Incarcerated Comrades

- 5** Enforce staff mask use, issue replacement masks and N95 masks to positive cases.
- 6** Communicate and uphold policies, procedures, and program schedules in writing so incarcerated people know what to expect.
- 7** Distribute medication on time and provide physical and mental health care to anyone in quarantine, on request.
- 8** Stop penalizing incarcerated people who refuse to risk exposure by working.
- 9** Shut down all non-essential jobs and RESPECT and reduce the number of incarcerated essential workers.
- 10** Allow prompt access to quarterly packages and purchased food to prevent spoilage.

@C_C_W_P

Can be shared with instagram slide series and/or as two complementary images on Twitter.

Example Corresponding Tweets (included in social media toolkit)

.@CACorrections says they have the pandemic under control, yet the California Institution for Women (CIW) had 100+ new positives in ONE week. #CDCRLies & more people will die from state negligence. #ActNowNewsom to #BringThemHome bit.ly/CCWFdemands