

Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives

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Written Testimony
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Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding our COVID-19 response.

It is a privilege to appear before you today and discuss the tremendous efforts our company is taking to mitigate impacts of this unprecedented pandemic.

Overview

LaSalle Corrections is an established developer and operator of correctional centers throughout the United States. LaSalle Corrections has been providing corrections industry solutions to law enforcement agencies, federal agencies and government municipalities for decades. Our range of facility solutions include design, construction, and operations management, along with inmate and detainee services that cover security, education, rehabilitation, immigration and healthcare. As a full-service corrections and immigration detention management provider, LaSalle Corrections specializes in the management of prisons, jails and detention facilities, as well as inmate and detainee transportation services.

Pandemic Response

Since the onset of reports of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), LaSalle Corrections has been tracking the outbreak, regularly updating infection prevention and control protocols, and issuing guidance. LaSalle Corrections implemented our Pandemic contingency plan in response to COVID-19, that includes screening, testing, appropriate treatment, prevention, education, and infection control measures. After thorough review and consultation of existing plans, we formulated revisions to our strategic plans to include a COVID-19 pandemic response plan. Our company's strategic planning ensures for continuity of operations and a sustainable health care delivery system within facility settings. All emergency services and advanced medical care is included in our pandemic planning. Also, comprehensive protocols are in place for the protection of staff and detainees, including the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance.

As you are aware, correctional and detention facilities can include custody, housing, education, recreation, healthcare, food service, and workplace components in a single physical setting. The integration of these components presents unique challenges for control of COVID-19 transmission among incarcerated/detained persons, staff, and visitors. However, our company's consistent

preparation, prevention and management measures have served as a foundation to reduce the risk of transmission and severity of illness from COVID-19. To date no ICE detainee in our care has succumbed to COVID-19.

LaSalle Corrections employees have access to the most current CDC and DHS guidance and full support and assistance in this rapidly changing environment. General guidance for each facility on COVID-19 in correctional and detention settings include:

- Operational and communications preparations for COVID-19
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting and hygiene practices
- Social distancing strategies to increase space between individuals in the facility
- How to limit transmission from visitors
- Infection control, including recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) and potential alternatives during PPE shortages
- Verbal screening and temperature check protocols for incoming incarcerated/detained individuals, staff, and visitors
- Medical isolation of confirmed and suspected cases and quarantine of contacts, including considerations for cohorting when individual spaces are limited
- Healthcare evaluation for suspected cases, including testing for COVID-19
- Clinical care for confirmed and suspected cases
- Considerations for persons at higher risk of severe disease from COVID-19

LaSalle Corrections is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other federal, state, and local agencies to facilitate and refine our pandemic planning and response in confronting COVID-19. LaSalle Corrections reviews CDC guidance routinely and continues to update protocols to remain consistent with CDC guidance. LaSalle Corrections will continue to incorporate CDC's COVID-19 guidance, which is built upon the established infectious disease monitoring and management protocols, coupled with the rapidly changing adaptations of state and local health departments.

Also, LaSalle Corrections continues our focus on operational and communications planning, reinforcing hygiene practices, intensifying cleaning and disinfection of facilities, and monitoring for potential cases. Facilities will continue increased social distancing through physical separation, having staggered meals, meal locations and recreation times in order to limit large gatherings.

Conclusion

The responsibility to protect those in our custody is paramount and LaSalle Corrections is firmly committed to the health and welfare of our detained population. LaSalle Corrections will remain diligent in operating our facilities at the highest level, providing safe, secure and humane surroundings for our staff, those in our custody and the communities in which we operate. The skills, talents, and dedication of our workforce form the foundation of our success in responding to this unprecedented pandemic and I assure you our team will continue to work hard every day to ensure facilities are operating under the safest and most practical conditions to reduce the risk of exposure and prevent further spreading of COVID-19.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your support. I remain committed to working with Congress and my colleagues to ensure for the continued welfare and safety of our detained population.