

## Survey to Chief APOs

### Issue: Drug Testing During Pandemic

#### Question (from Allegheny County)

I know there has been discussion in the past about drug testing during the pandemic. I wanted to see if anyone has made any significant changes since it was last brought up. For safety reasons our AJ has stopped all drug testing by my staff. There has been some recent discussion to start testing again despite increased COVID numbers in Allegheny. I am seeking guidance on the following:

As COVID numbers continue to climb in PA, has anyone:

1. Stopped drug testing completely, or significantly reduced the numbers?
2. If not, how do you do to keep your staff safe?
3. Are tests being conducted in the field or office?
4. Are staff monitoring the tests (are they going into a confined space with the client)?
5. Please share any research that you are aware of on COVID and drug testing. ( I am having trouble finding anything relevant)
6. Any novel ideas on testing while keeping staff safe that you would be willing to share would be appreciated.

#### Carbon County

1. Significant reduction
2. Staff are required to wear gloves and masks, socially distant as much as possible, and we have a fogger that we use afterwards
3. Both.
4. The bathroom allows you to stand 6 feet away (just)
5. None
6. None

#### Cumberland County

In Cumberland a separate department under the control of the Commissioners does the testing for all county agencies (AP, JPO, DRO, C&Y). Allows our officers to direct their attention on things that actually reduce recidivism. The drug testing department was shut down for a brief period of time (6 wks.) but now back to full operations.

#### Dauphin County

1. Although we have an onsite lab, we did reduce our drug testing by 60%. Only our specialty court participants and known offenders with a hx of drug addition make up the priority list of those tested.
2. Our lab tech have always been required to wear gloves and masks. With COVID, they are required to wear face shields as well

3. Only in the office
4. Yes, they monitor, yet keeping 6 feet apart
5. I have not come across any
6. In Dauphin, we have also had our Day Report Center (operated by a private vendor) perform most of our testing when our lab was closed in the summer. This allowed us to monitor specialty court participant and known user, while not exposing our staff.

### Elk County

Elk does not allow offenders in the courthouse so we have ceased testing temporarily, at least until Feb 12 as per Admin. Order

### Erie County

1. Erie County has an arrangement with the local urinalysis agency to administer one time urine draws. Also, when our offices are open, on a very limited basis and with supervisor approval, officers may conduct a urine with full PPE
2. Full PPE including glasses, N-95 masks, nitrile gloves are mandatory
3. No field tests currently
4. The urine room is monitored by staff with full PPE required
5. No research that I am aware of. We have had a liaison assigned to us from the Health Department which helped us develop protocols pandemic related.
6. We were able to contract with our local treatment center who administers our random drug testing program to take one time urine screens with supervisory approval. It is the route we utilize unless there are compelling reasons why we would tests in the office.

### Franklin County

1. Random testing is done at Officer discretion, Drug Court and Intensive programs are still done as normal.
2. Staff are provided gloves face shields and N95 masks, temperature screenings of court-supervised individuals, and an exposure questionnaire are conducted prior to the drug screening.
3. Office and field (majority office)
4. Yes
5. I have none, we have had zero staff positive's linked back to contact on the job working with individuals on supervision.
6. During the late spring peak, we ordered portable toilets to conduct drug testing outside, this was not a good option for the winter.

### Lackawanna County

1. Reviewed on case-by-case basis to significantly reduced numbers
2. Staff required to wear gloves and mask
3. Office only
4. Staff is maintaining as much distance as possible
5. Not aware of any at this time

6. Sorry, nothing here

#### Lancaster County

As of December 11, 2020, my PJ closed Court facilities to the public, continued all criminal and civil jury trials, and (with the exception of emergent proceedings) directed that all Court proceedings be done via “advanced communication technology” as we had last spring. For Adult Probation, we have almost all appointments being conducted remotely with the exception of intakes, electronic monitoring ankle bracelets, and clients who are in crisis or otherwise need to be seen in person. We do temp check and health questionnaire at the entrance and require face covering and hand washing upon entrance.

1. We have significantly reduced the numbers. For clients in one of our treatment Courts, we have contracted with a local provider to do the testing in their building.
2. Officers are provided face masks, face shields, and the usual gloves. Drug testing restrooms are cleaned in between each client being tested.
3. In the office. None being conducted in the field right now.
4. Yes, but only long enough to witness the sample being provided.
5. I have not seen any.

#### Lebanon County

Lebanon County testing numbers have decreased as we are conducting office visits at a reduced level, but we are still conducting our own testing in-house. We avoid home visits/drug testing where able as we can control our own environment better than in the field. PPE and distancing are utilized. We have had no suspected/known exposures linked to drug testing. Any staff exposure that we have experienced appeared to be due to contact during personal time or a failure to comply with department PPE requirements during an interaction with staff or client.

I have not seen any studies regarding drug testing, nor have we discussed utilizing an outside drug testing facility. If we started having concerns regarding staff exposure, I am sure that would be a topic of conversation.

#### Lehigh County

1. We are not testing in the office. We are pretty much using our outside vendor exclusively. In an emergency, we do test in the office.
2. Masks and gloves must be worn and the drug testing lab is cleaned and sanitized after every urine screen.
3. We are doing very few in the field
4. Yes, they are and they try to maintain as much of a distance as possible.
5. I have not seen any.
6. We just make sure the drug lab after each interaction with defendants when drug testing.

#### Philadelphia

1. Stopped completely
2. n/a
3. We are not doing standard field visits and clients are not report in to the office
4. n/a
5. Not aware of any at this time
6. We met about this this morning and it was suggested that we look testing off site with a company

#### Snyder County

1. Our number have decreased based on less frequent contacts with offenders. We conducted over 2,7000 tests in 2020 as a class 7 county. Would have higher if not for COVID
2. All staff are required to wear masks and are provided gloves. We also have protective suits for officers to wear if it is necessary to enter a home and test someone claiming to be COVID +
3. Both
4. Yes
5. We have no positive COVID cases for staff, but have had to quarantine several times due to "close contact"
6. When our courthouse shut down we were fortunate to have a newly purchased building beside where we took offenders to test

#### Warren County

1. Random testing is done at Officer discretion, Drug Court and Intensive programs are still done as normal.
2. Staff are provided gloves face shields and N95 masks, temperature screenings of court-supervised individuals, and an exposure questionnaire are conducted prior to the drug screening.
3. Office and field (majority office)
4. Yes, Large public restroom where 6 ft social distance can be maintained.
5. I have none, we have had zero staff positive's linked back to contact on the job working with individuals on supervision.

#### Wayne County

1. Reduced significantly
2. Take necessary safety precaution: PPEs and distancing
3. Both, only when absolutely necessary
4. Yes
5. Go on CDC/state and local government guidelines provided
6. Use POs that received vaccine (if they are willing) and still use CDC and continue responsible guidelines until pandemic subsides

#### Westmoreland County

1. As per our President Judge, the Adult Probation Department is currently operating at normal operations
2. In addition to masks and gloves, staff have the option of safety glasses, face shields and protective gowns.
3. Both
4. Yes, all tests are observed. Staff maintains social distancing as much as possible
5. Sorry, none
6. Sorry, I don't have any ideas other than providing as much PPE as possible

#### York County

1. We reduced in house testing. Our vendor Averhealth has continued to drug test a normal capacity throughout the pandemic.
2. Wear PPE's – Glasses, Masks, Gloves, and hand washing. These are pretty much the same procedures we followed prior to COVID. Thankfully our drug testing bathroom and testing area are large enough to allow for social distancing.
3. Both
4. Yes, when conducted in the office. If in the field, we assess the level of space and if it is too confined, we require them to report to the office or conduct a pat down and have them wash their hands prior and in some circumstances require them to keep the door cracked open.
5. I am not aware of any research.
6. Wish I had something amazing to share, but I don't.