

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy

Question (from Pike County):

I was wondering if any chief inquired about having a policy in place concerning PPE. I would be interested in any policies that may exist if they are willing to share.

Allegheny County

Due to a recent spike in Allegheny County, 5 of our probation field locations are closed to the public and most staff are working remotely from home. The EHM, Court and Inter County/State Units remain on site.

Prior to this shut down we were following the practices below:

No formal policy as of yet in Allegheny.

- All staff and visitors are required to wear masks at all times within the offices.
- All visitors are asked several questions about recent travel, symptoms, or recent contact with someone testing positive. They may be turned away based on answers.
- If admitted to the office, visitors must first wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Only the offender is permitted in the office. All family/friends must wait outside.
- All interviews take place behind a protective shield.
- Report forms have been temporarily suspended.
- All areas are sanitized after the visit.
- Drug testing continues to be suspended.
- Staff who have traveled to a state considered a hotspot are directed to work from home for 14 days prior to returning to an office setting.

Armstrong County

We don't have a PPE specific policy, it is included in our COVID-19 response guidelines, however, we are required to wear face covering when we step outside our office. Face shields are available but my staff was not interested in them. Shields have been placed on PO's desks. We were also supplied with several gallons of disinfectant to use after an offender has been in an office.

Erie County

We have set up "interview rooms" where there is a glass barrier between the Officer & offender. All interviews must be conducted in the designated offices. This limits bringing offenders into the depths of the department and personal work space. Proximity is near the waiting room. All interviews must be conducted with masks and every office is sanitized after each interview. In addition all necessary PPE has been set up in "field bags" for arrests & field work.

Lackawanna County

We have the same systems in place as Lancaster County but we are waiting for desktop shields from Mesko Glass.

Lancaster County

We have a temperature check station set up and a hand washing station upon entering our building. Masks are required (we allow staff to take them off when they are in their own offices) in our building and our Courthouse. We are also having desktop shields (sneeze guards) installed on all staff desks.

Snyder County

Our Court issued a Judicial Administrative Order requiring all individuals who enter a Court Office to be masked at all times. If a probationer indicates that they have a medical condition they are required to provide proof. Once provided, they are excused from wearing them. In regards to staff, the same applies. Failure to follow the procedures listed in the JAO may result in contempt of the Court's Order.

We held jury selection at our local high school this past Monday. We used the auditorium and it went very smooth. My staff was used to assist in screening individuals as they entered the school by taking temperatures and also making them aware of what was and wasn't permitted in the building. We are a relatively small county and both judges in our judicial district were involved. 18 cases were disposed of that day with some picking juries and others ending in plea/sentence.

Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County does not have a specific policy. Staff is required to wear masks and we offered all staff members the option to have face shields, protective eye wear and gowns