

# Social Distancing When Distance is a 8 X 12 Cell



Not all these social distancing strategies will be feasible in all facilities, but they offer ideas for keeping inmates/detainees a safe and healthy distance apart – ideally, six feet should be maintained between individuals.

## Common areas

- Enforce increased space between individuals in holding cells, as well as in lines and waiting areas such as intake (e.g., remove every other chair in a waiting area).

## Recreation

- Choose recreation spaces in which individuals can spread out.
- Stagger time in recreation spaces.
- Restrict recreation space usage to a single housing unit per space.

## Meals

- Stagger meals.
- Rearrange seating in the dining hall so that there is more space between individuals (e.g., remove every other chair and use only one side of the table).
- Provide meals inside housing units or cells.

## Group activities

- Limit the size of group activities.
- Increase space between individuals during group activities.
- Suspend group programs where participants are likely to be in closer contact than they are in their housing environment.
- Consider alternatives to group activities, outdoors or in other areas where individuals can spread out.

## Housing

- If space allows, reassign bunks to provide more space between individuals, ideally six feet or more in all directions. (Ensure that bunks are cleaned thoroughly if assigned to a new occupant.)
- Arrange bunks so that individuals sleep head to foot to increase the distance between them.
- Rearrange scheduled movements to minimize mixing of individuals from different housing areas.

## Medical

- If possible, designate a room near each housing unit in which to evaluate individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, rather than having them walk through the facility to be evaluated in the medical unit. If this is not feasible, consider staggering sick call.
- Designate a room near the intake area to evaluate new entrants who are flagged by the intake screening process for COVID-19 symptoms or case contact, before they move to other parts of the facility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [NCCHC.ORG/COVID-RESOURCES](https://www.ncchc.org/covid-resources)

