

## Video Script: "Reports of Remote Inspections of FCC Lompoc and FCC Tucson Examining the Institutions' Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic," July 2020

Hello, I'm Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the US Department of Justice.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, my office has been conducting a series of remote inspections of selected Federal Bureau of Prisons institutions, contract prisons, and Residential Reentry Centers, known as halfway houses. The inspections are assessing whether the facilities are complying with available guidance and best practices regarding preventing, managing, and containing potential COVID-19 outbreaks.

Our inspections have been conducted through phone interviews, review of BOP documents and complaints we have received, our analysis of data from the respective institutions, and the results of our survey of employees at the BOP, contract prison, and halfway house. Today, we released the first two inspection reports – those concerning BOP Federal Correctional Complexes in Lompoc, California and Tucson, Arizona.

Today's reports present very different situations at those two facilities. At FCC Tucson, no inmates and one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 during the period of our inspection in early June. By mid-July, 11 staff members had tested positive. In contrast, at FCC Lompoc, at least 32 staff members had tested positive for COVID-19 as of early May and, by mid-July, four inmates had died and over 1,000 inmates had tested positive.

Those outcomes may have been, in part, due to factors beyond the control of prison management. However, we found that prison management at FCC Tucson took certain early precautionary steps.

For example, FCC Tucson's management effectively limited staff movement and implemented a 14-day quarantine for incoming inmates before the BOP required those actions. It also repurposed an empty housing unit as a quarantine isolation area.

At FCC Lompoc, we found that preexisting medical and correctional staff shortages were among its biggest challenges. For example, insufficient staffing caused FCC Lompoc management to delay restricting staff movement for 15 days.

Today's reports do not include recommendations. Rather, our reports are intended to assist the BOP and the Justice Department in identifying strategies to most effectively contain current and potential future COVID-19 outbreaks. We anticipate preparing a capstone report providing our BOP-wide conclusions and recommendations as a result of our inspections, once our 14 remaining inspections are completed.

Today's reports are available on our website, [oig.justice.gov](http://oig.justice.gov), on [oversight.gov](http://oversight.gov), and on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's website, [pandemic.oversight.gov](http://pandemic.oversight.gov). As ongoing inspections are completed over the next few months, they also will be available on those websites.

Thank you for joining me today.

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