In response to the four areas identified in Administrative Order NO. 2020-14, we respectfully respond as follows:

1. Protocols for screening and testing detainees, staff, and others entering or leaving each facility

   In an effort to be proactive and prepared for the potential spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in our facilities, The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO) initiated a multidisciplinary approach from our headquarters to all of our facilities to create and sustain the highest level of vigilance and readiness. We embarked on a robust and ongoing educational campaign to bring awareness to our staff and our detainees. This campaign was conducted in multiple languages to ensure ready comprehension.

   On February 26, 2020, educational materials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were provided to all facilities which are continuously updated. Our local leadership was tasked to discuss the CDC’s “what you need to know about COVID-19,” “Stop the Spread of Germs” and “Cover your Cough”. The information was posted in vital areas of our facilities, such as the front entrance, visiting areas, restrooms, health services unit, housing units, Restrictive Housing Unit and staff break rooms. Our facilities are ensuring that detainees are informed via townhall meetings and staff are informed by using the following venues to emphasize the important role of prevention: shift briefings, meetings with staff and department heads.

   All transfers from the facility were suspended to reduce the risk of exposure except for outside treatments clinically determined to be medically necessary and/or emergent with appropriate use of PPE by the staff.

   As of March 13, 2020, the suspension of visitation and professional/legal visits were in effect in order to mitigate the potential transmission of COVID-19. In situations where a professional/legal visitor is denied access to the facility, the Facility Administrator will attempt to facilitate an alternative method of communication (telephone, video conferencing, etc.) whenever possible. A Visitor Screening-COVID-19 Questionnaire is deployed to prevent the contact with visitors presenting risk of exposure to staff and detainees.

   As of March 13, 2020, we implemented employee wellness checks to include temperature screenings upon arrival at the facility, for all shifts. Also, as of April 3, 2020, all employees are receiving PPE including N-80 masks and surgical gloves for their use while on duty.

2. The number of detainees tested and the number of positive tests;
Number of detainees tested: 17
Number of detainees positive: 2

3. The number of staff and/or other testing positive;

Number of staff testing positive: 7

4. All efforts undertaken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 both generally, and in response to any symptomatic inmate(s) and/or positive test(s);

On February 28, 2020, the Corporate Chief Medical Officer, provided to our facility the Technical Direction TD-2020-1 (TD), Coronavirus COVID-19. The TD provided a comprehensive approach in the management to COVID-19, based on the latest information provided by the CDC. GEO’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy 531, was updated and deployed along with the GEO Health Services Interim Reference Sheet (following guidance from the CDC, ICE Health Services Corp and the Federal Bureau of Prisons guidelines). The interim guideline, as recommended by the CDC, implemented temperature checks as well as the COVID-19 Patient Screening Tool (HS-168) for all new arrivals. The “pre-intake” temperature check is part our front-line assessment to identify and immediately place under medical isolation symptomatic and/or those identified as high-risk patients for COVID-19.

The GEO Health Services Interim Reference Sheet was expanded to identify possible cases during regular sick call, health assessments and other medical encounters in which a patient presents with signs or symptoms of a respiratory illness. Our facility is equipped with COVID-19 diagnostic kits to be used when appropriate clinical cases are identified.

On March 6, 2020, as part of GEO’s Emergency Preparedness Program, our facility fashioned a local multidisciplinary team and developed a COVID-19 Emergency Plan to be deployed in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Our emergency plan provides the guiding principles to address our operational preparedness, prevention and management of COVID-19 cases.

Our team continually assesses facility inventories of food, medicines, cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and facility operational practices to assure the safety, security, health, and well-being of detainees are met. We are conducting tactical tabletop exercises and

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1 On April 3, 2020, the New York City Department of Health (DOH) indicated that testing detainees, who demonstrated symptoms of COVID-19 at the Queens Private Detention Facility, was no longer necessary. The DOH stated that the person should be confined and his or her symptoms should be treated. He or she can be released from confinement when the person has no fever without medication. Despite this NYC DOH guidance, GEO, upon the advice of its own medical personnel has decided to test all detainees who have symptoms of COVID-19.
updating our COVID-19 emergency plans to ensure compliance with the American Correctional Association and the CDC guidelines based on what is currently known about the transmission and management of the illness.

We are placing high emphasis on good hygienic practices, intensifying cleaning, and disinfection of the facility. Furthermore, we implemented strong internal controls screening new detainees, staff and visitors when applicable. We have championed the importance of social distancing in our correctional environment as critical, continuously educating and communicating with detainees and staff the importance of this risk exposure mitigation strategy to prevent COVID-19 exposure and infection. We implemented reduced movement in the common areas, recreation activities, group activities, and when feasible, housing arrangements. Effective April 7, 2020, we distributed N95 masks to all detainees.

We are diligently working on the management of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases inside our facility. GEO has embraced sound practices to effectively follow the CDC Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities. Our multilevel approach includes medical isolation and clinical management of anyone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. The Clinical Director is working with our security teams and they are, with the appropriate use of PPE’s, implementing the necessary internal controls to quarantine, prevent close contact, restrict movement, implement infection control practices and maintain our highest levels of cleaning and disinfection of all areas. The detainees will continue to have frequent opportunities for engagement with facility managerial and supervisory staff during this unprecedented public health crisis.

As a part of our compressive prevention practice, staff are directed to stay home if they are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19. We are ensuring that staff are aware they will not be able to enter the facility if they are symptomatic of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.). We are conducting daily checks of staff temperatures and staff are required to complete a questionnaire to identify symptoms and history of high-risk exposure before authorizing entrance to the facility. Given the public health emergency, staff who refuse the health screening will be denied entry to the facility. If staff register an oral temperature of greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees (Fahrenheit), and present a risk of exposure based on the questionnaire they are denied entry to the facility.