



Captain Dennis Geary
Commander

Newton Police Department
Special Operations and Training Bureau
Training Bulletin 20-10
March 13, 2020



Sergeant Daniel Valente

Prisoner Handling Guidelines

This training bulletin is being issued to provide additional guidance to department employees regarding the handling of prisoners. In order to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the following measures are to be implemented immediately:

Summons:

Officers should summons offenders to court when practical to keep the department as clean as possible. We all understand there will be situations where offenders will be arrested and Officers should not be impeded from arresting when the situation warrants it.

Prisoners:

All prisoners should be asked the following questions:

1. Do you have any flu-like symptoms, fever, cough and shortness of breath?
2. Have you been in contact with anyone being monitored or sick with the COVID-19 virus?
3. Has anyone you associate with or been in close contact with, family, friends, co-workers had any flu-like symptoms?
4. If yes, have you or anyone you associate with been to China, Italy, South Korea or Japan in the past 14 to 21 days?

The Newton District Court, at this time is not changing their practice of accepting prisoners. The Department will be updated in the event any changes are implemented.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office Safekeep program MOU is still in place and they will be accepting long term prisoners. Officers should follow all procedures in place when processing prisoners through the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.

Social Distancing:

Police Officers have been practicing social distancing for tactical reasons for years. We are now encouraging the same social distancing for non-tactical reasons as well. Whenever possible, use six (6) feet as a rule of thumb for social distancing.

On traffic stops, try to limit paperwork that you touch, such as licenses and registrations. If the vehicle is owner-operated, then the person's information can be obtained through CJIS. If the vehicle is not owner-operated, officers can take a picture of the license or ask the operator to read off the pertinent information. If officers must touch the documents, wear protective gloves or afterwards, wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.