CoreCivic Response to Human Rights Watch Request for Comment, June 1, 2020

Since even before any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our facilities, we have rigorously followed the guidance of local, state and federal health authorities, as well as our government partners. We have responded to this unprecedented situation appropriately, thoroughly and with care for the safety and well-being of those entrusted to us and our communities. It is false to claim that the facilities CoreCivic operates are places of "inhumane, unsanitary and dangerous conditions" and "access to medical care is historically paltry." Again, the reports you cite are from 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Otay Mesa
The government’s ICE Health Services Corps (IHSC) provides all the medical and mental healthcare at Otay Mesa. Inquiries about the following information should be addressed to them, through ICE public affairs:

- COVID-19 testing of detainees
- Hospitalization of detainees
- Quarantining/cohorting practices
- Identification of sick detainees and medical visits

Additionally, questions about the current ICE detainee population at Otay Mesa should be addressed to ICE public affairs and United States Marshals Service for the USMS population cases.

Our Efforts to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19
We’re working closely with our partners at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), and ICE Health Services Corps (IHSC), which provides the healthcare at the facility, to ensure the health and safety of everyone at the Otay Mesa Detention Center. In addition to the steps we put in place several weeks ago, we’ve updated and expanded our response to COVID-19 at the facility in the following ways:

- Movement around the facility has been limited, with the exception of court hearings or medical emergencies.
- Housing pods with positive cases are under cohort.
- Meals are being served in the housing pods rather than the dining facility.
- Masks are being provided to all staff and detainees in accordance with updated CDC recommendations.

ICE Health Services Corps already been separating high-medical-risk detainees prior to having any cases at Otay Mesa. At the direction of ICE and with notification to USMS, all social visitation had been suspended effective March 13, 2020, until further notice. We continue to regularly update detainees and staff about positive cases at the facility.

Stewart Detention Center
We’re working closely with our partners at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure the health and safety of everyone at the Stewart Detention Center. In addition to the steps
we put in place several weeks ago, we’ve updated and expanded our response to COVID-19 at
the facility in the following ways:

- Conducting daily temperature checks of all detainees.
- Implementing deep cleaning procedures for all of the housing units, which occur weekly.
  All of the detainees in a housing unit are relocated within the facility until the deep
  cleaning is complete.
- Conducting regular meetings with detainees to keep them informed on cohorting
  procedures, proper sanitation protocols, personal protective equipment (PPE), safe dining
  practices, social distancing recommendations, recreational opportunities, and expected
  length of cohort.
- Limiting movement around the facility, with the exception of court hearings or medical
  emergencies.
- Cohorting housing pods with positive cases.
- Serving meals in the housing pods rather than the dining facility.
- Providing masks to all staff and detainees in accordance with updated CDC
  recommendations.

We had already been separating high-medical-risk detainees prior to having any cases at Stewart
Detention Center and, at the direction of ICE, all social visitation had been suspended effective
March 13, 2020, until further notice. We continue to regularly update detainees and staff about
positive cases at the facility.

**COVID-19 Pandemic Response**
For reference, the following statement includes steps that have already been in place at the
facility for some time. You can also learn more about our company’s pandemic response on the
dedicated COVID-19 section of our website.

CoreCivic is working hard to protect our employees, those entrusted to our care, and our
communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have a Coronavirus Medical Action Plan in
place at each of our facilities, which we’ve been working on since January. This plan includes:

- Having medical staff participate in the intake process to identify those who are deemed
  high-risk of being infected with or contracting COVID-19;
- Isolating those who are deemed high-risk as needed; and
- Working with local and state health departments to conduct appropriate testing.

All of our facilities are actively promoting the following three health habits for inmates,
detainees and residents, as well as staff: regular hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette (coughing or
sneezing into a sleeve or tissue), and avoiding touching one's face. We also encourage the
practice of social distancing for all individuals within our facilities.

Our health services administrators cooperate fully with local and state health departments, and
our protocols mirror local, state, and federal recommendations. Our plan and practices build on
the extensive work we do every day to run clean, healthy and safe facilities. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of all our medical staff during this time.

We have asked all of our employees to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases by adhering to the following recommendations:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow the CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Screening
All employees are screened upon entering a CoreCivic facility. Procedures are specific to correctional and detention facilities, designed to prevent the introduction and spread of the COVID-19 virus. These steps include answering a screening questionnaire related to symptoms of infection, and a safe temperature check.

Social Distancing
Staff routinely encourage appropriate social distancing and model that behavior for those in our care. Social distancing is encouraged through regular town hall meetings, posted flyers, information presented over the closed circuit television system, and the routine instruction of staff all serve to encourage those known effective steps to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices
In all of our CoreCivic facilities, staff adhere to the CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfection during the COVID-19 response. This will include cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, objects and shared equipment that are frequently touched or used by staff members and those entrusted to our care. Our facilities use commercial cleaners and EPA-registered disinfectants that are effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, following label instructions to ensure their safe and effective use. We have adequate supplies to support these intensified cleaning and disinfecting practices.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, face masks are provided to all staff and those in our care. Disposable gloves are readily available for staff conducting searches and handling property. Staff working at the front lobby screening sites wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
Additional information regarding the deaths of Santiago Baten-Oxlaj and Carlos Escobar-Mejia should be directed to our government partner, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).