

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

MARTINEZ *et. al.*

on their own behalf and on behalf of others similarly situated,

Case No. 7:20-cv-00062

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

MICHAEL DONAHUE, warden Stewart Detention Center;
MATTHEW ALBENCE, in his official capacity as the Acting
Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS
ENFORCEMENT; CHAD WOLF, in his official capacity as
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY;

Respondents-Defendants.

DECLARATION OF OFFICER IN CHARGE JOHN BRETZ

I, John Bretz, make the following statements under oath and subject to the penalty of perjury:

1. I am employed by U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and currently serve as the Officer in Charge. I have held this position since 2019.
2. I provide this declaration based on my personal knowledge, belief, reasonable inquiry, and information obtained from various records, systems, databases, other DHS employees, employees of DHS contract facilities, and information portals maintained and relied upon by DHS in the regular course of business.
3. In my current position, I am an Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Removal Operations (RO) oversight over ERO's operations at the Stewart Detention Center. I have been employed by the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) since 1995.

4. ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC) provides direct medical, dental, and mental health patient care to approximately 13,500 detainees housed at 20 IHSC-staffed facilities throughout the nation.
5. IHSC's FMCs ensure that the provision of medical care by contractors to the ICE detainees within the IGSA facilities meets detention standards, as required by the IGSA contract. The FMCs do not provide hands-on care or direct the care within the IGSA but monitor the medical care and services provided by the contract facilities. Medical staff at the contract facilities are directly responsible for medical care at the facility.
6. IHSC comprises a multidisciplinary workforce that consists of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) officers, federal civil servants, and contract health professionals.
7. Since the onset of reports of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), ICE epidemiologists have been tracking the outbreak, regularly updating infection prevention and control protocols, and issuing guidance to field staff on screening and management of potential exposure among detainees.
8. In testing for COVID-19, IHSC is also following guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to safeguard those in its custody and care.
9. Each detainee is screened for disabilities upon admission by a qualified healthcare professional. Identified disabilities are further evaluated and reasonable accommodations are provided as medically appropriate.
10. At the facility, during intake medical screenings, detainees are assessed for fever and respiratory illness, are asked to confirm if they have had close contact with a person with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days, and whether they have traveled from or through area(s) with sustained community transmission in the past two weeks.
11. The detainee's responses and the results of these assessments will dictate whether to monitor or isolate the detainee. Those detainees who present symptoms compatible with COVID-19 will be placed in isolation, where they will be tested. If testing is positive, they will remain isolated and treated. In case of any clinical deterioration, they will be referred to a local hospital.
12. In cases of known exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19, asymptomatic detainees are placed in cohorts with restricted movement for the duration of the most recent incubation period (14 days after most recent exposure to an ill detainee) and are monitored daily for fever and symptoms of respiratory illness. Cohorting is an infection-prevention strategy which involves housing detainees together who were exposed to a


with any communicable disease who require isolation are placed in an appropriate setting in accordance with CDC or state and local health department guidelines.

13. Stewart Detention Center has

22. ICE has reviewed its detained “at risk population” as identified by the CDC guidelines to determine if detention remains appropriate, considering the detainee’s health, public safety and mandatory detention requirements, and adjusted custody conditions, when appropriate, to protect health, safety and well-being of its detainees.

I declare, under penalty of perjury under 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and based on information obtained from other individuals employed by ICE.

DATED: April 9, 2020



Enforcement and Removal Operations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement