

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



How to Use This Toolkit

CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE

Green buttons like this one enable you to navigate through the toolkit.



Orange buttons like this one direct you to specific concept areas and topics.

CLICK TO SEE THE REPORT

Blue buttons like this one direct you to external resources.



Checklists direct you to questionnaires that can help your agency assess its programs.



Badges direct you to spotlights describing how agencies who engaged in the interview process are navigating the COVID-19 pandemic with the five core principles of precision policing.

Introduction

As the nation has contended with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, police departments and other first responder agencies are still required to fulfill their critical mission to preserve and protect their communities. Police executives and other decision-makers must *make continual adjustments to their operational plans and procedures* to remain responsive to the changing risks associated with this unprecedented public health emergency. Police executives must also *work closely with their local public health departments and health partners* to ensure that they have procedures in place to protect the health and safety of their officers. These new and critical tasks must be done while managing day-to-day operations and a broadened mission to support enforcement of statewide mandates concerning social distancing and mask wearing.

CNA worked with three of the seven <u>21st Century Policing</u> agencies, also known as Precision Policing, to identify best practices (to date) in coping with the effects of COVID-19. Interwoven throughout this toolkit are linked resources from departments and organizations, as well as national guidance, for working under the frequently changing conditions of the pandemic. *This toolkit presents best practices that police departments should consider in managing the effects of the public health emergency.*

Law Enforcement Duties During a Pandemic Response

- Enforcing movement restrictions and/or quarantines
- Assisting with logistical and operational strains within states
- Responding to civil disturbances and breakdowns in public order
- Maintaining normal department functions
 - Dealing with day-to-day duties
 - Amending operations to manage reductions in staffing resulting from officer exposure and quarantining protocols

Looking Ahead: Law Enforcement in a Post-Pandemic Nation

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted law enforcement operations in 2020, forcing departments to adapt to the new environment and find innovative ways to conduct daily routines, hire personnel, interact with their communities, and keep everyone safe. This toolkit draws on the lived experiences of law enforcement agencies to spotlight their innovations and consider their strategies as they look toward the future. Such emerging practices may be useful in developing response protocols for a range of other public health emergencies.

"We deal with suspect threats and terrorism threats so we need to prepare for pandemic threats. We know about 1918 so we need to remember this and memorialize what we did for COVID-19 and put a plan in place to look back on what worked and what didn't." — Arlington Police Department

Learn about the National Homeland Security Consortium's pandemic best practices and recommendations

NHSC's COVID-19 AFTER ACTION REPORT

View the Police Foundation's COVID-19 Resources for Law Enforcement

COVID-19 RESOURCE DASHBOARD

21st Century Policing Agencies

This toolkit features examples of practices and lessons learned from the 21st Century Policing Taskforce participants listed below. Click a badge to learn more about the department background and demographics, or click the button below to advance to the next page.



Arlington, Texas, Police Department (APD)



Hennepin County, Minnesota, Sheriff's Office (HCSO)



Indio, California, Police Department (IPD)

Advancing 21st Century Policing in COVID-19

This toolkit is organized according to four themes that emerged from interviews with police leaders in seven of the 21st Century Policing agencies when asked how they are managing the effects of COVID-19. Click on a concept area below to learn more about each area and find more information on specific program activities that agencies have implemented to respond to these challenges.

PLANNING AND PROCEDURES
FOR OFFICER SAFETY

COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COLLABORATION

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

EFFECTS ON CRIME

Planning and Procedures for Officer Safety

As the number of COVID-19 cases rises nationwide, departments have implemented protocols and procedures for protecting officer wellness and safety. These include new policies, procedures, and responses related to positive test results and the use of additional personal protective equipment (PPE).

Police departments have implemented new policies and procedures related to officer safety in the following areas:

Planning and Procedures for Officer Safety

COVID-19 TESTING PROCEDURES

Planning and Procedures
for Officer Safetv

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Click on a button above to view activities in that topic area.

Planning and Procedures for Officer Safety

COVID-19 Testing Procedures

Departments use various protocols for identifying, testing, and isolating those officers who have tested positive for COVID-19. To learn about the methods each agency has used and how to implement them, **click on the yellow badges.**



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff

Indio, CA, Police



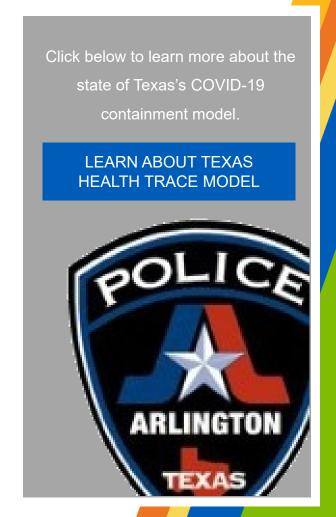
Arlington, TX, Police Department

Policies and procedures for personnel who test positive for COVID-19

- APD has a directive on how to handle highly infectious disease and a standard operating procedure that outlines contact tracing, isolation procedures, and follow-up reporting requirements until employees are cleared to return to work.
- Employees who test positive receive worker's compensation as long as there is proof that their exposure occurred on the job.
- The agency conducts contact tracing through guidance from the city medical director, who is a public health authority for the county.

Learn about the APD's 7-Day Exposure guidelines for COVID-19

APD 7-DAY EXPOSURE GUIDELINES



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

Policies and procedures for personnel who test positive for COVID-19

- At HCSO, employees who test positive are placed in quarantine. The return-to-work timeframe is handled on a case-by-case basis, depending on how well the staff member responds to treatment.
- Supervisors of employees who test positive undergo a contact tracing process.

WHAT TO DO IN MINNESOTA IF YOU HAVE COVID-19



Indio, CA, Police Department

Policies and procedures for personnel who test positive for COVID-19

- An administrative leave policy is in place so that officers who test positive can quarantine at home for two weeks. Officers must be free of symptoms and fever before returning to work. IPD also administers a second test to confirm an officer is negative for the virus.
- IPD has secured a lockdown hotel to prevent officers who have been exposed from passing the virus to their families.



Planning and Procedures for Officer Safety

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Across agencies, officers generally have access to gloves, masks (both N95 and surgical masks), and, in some cases, face shields and gowns.

- Officers generally wear masks and gloves while on duty.
- Officers often wear additional PPE if a citizen is suspected of having COVID-19.
- When IPD was experiencing a shortage of N95 masks, the department required officers to wear cloth masks, reserving N95 use for cases that had high risk of COVID-19 exposure.
- IPD and other departments have implemented procedures for regularly sanitizing vehicles and high-frequency touch areas.

This section of the toolkit explores how law enforcement agencies have changed and implemented policies to respond to the pandemic, including the direction of internal policies and resources (command) and coordination with other first-responder agencies and public health officials. Police agencies participating in the PPI during COVID-19 have implemented changes and policies in the following areas:

Command, Control, and
Collaboration
SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR
EMPLOYEES

Command, Control, and
Collaboration
STAFFING, SCHEDULING, AND
TRAINING ADJUSTMENTS

Command, Control, and Collaboration

CHANGES TO ARREST

PROCEDURE

Command, Control, and Collaboration

COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Click on a button above to view activities in that topic area.

Screening Procedures for Employees

During the pandemic, agencies have instituted new procedures to screen employees for COVID-19.

- APD used telephone calls to initiate contact with citizens during nonviolent field calls in order to social distance while aiding those in need of help.
- HCSO and APD suspended finger printing services at their facilities to reduce the risk of germ spread or cross-contamination.

Take the CDC Self-Checker Assessment

CHECK YOUR SYMPTOMS WITH THE CDC SELF-ASSESSMENT

Learn about essential worker safety measures

FIVE PRACTICES TO FOLLOW

BACK TO COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

Staffing, Scheduling, and Training Adjustments

During the pandemic, agencies have implemented new staffing, scheduling, and training procedures to prevent exposure to COVID-19. Changes include staggering shifts, allowing some staff to telework, and postponing training or limiting the types of training available. To learn more about the changes each agency has implemented, **click on the yellow badges**.

Arlington, TX, Police

Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff

Indio, CA, Police



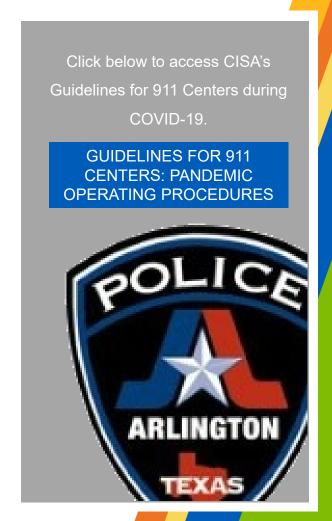
Arlington, TX, Police Department

Staffing and scheduling adjustments:

- The chief has authorized alternative work schedules for professional staff and detectives. These staff members can obtain authorization to work from home or on a later shift to minimize contact.
- Shifts have remained consistent to minimize scheduling disruptions.
- Staff in operations, school resource officers, and warrant officers have been reassigned to patrol to increase staff, allowing for greater flexibility.

Training adjustments:

- APD has suspended all training except for new recruit training.
 Facilities for recruit training allow for social distancing; currently, close contact training is not allowed.
- APD recruiting operations have taken advantage of Indeed, an online hiring platform, and have set up remote interviews and assessments to screen applicants.



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

Staffing and scheduling adjustments:

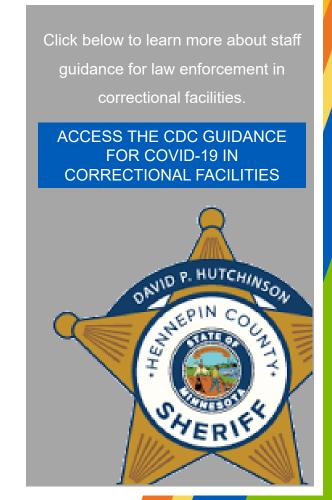
- HCSO has reassigned some sworn staff members to ensure adequate coverage for the Hennepin County Jail, the largest local jail in the state.
- Civilian staff and sworn staff who can feasibly work remotely (e.g., investigators and detectives) do so.

Training adjustments:

- HCSO suspended training in 2020 from March 1 to June 1.
- Deadlines for mandatory training have been revised to reflect training suspension.

Learn about disease spread in corrections facilities

SAFER-C™: A COVID-19 DISEASE SPREAD MODEL



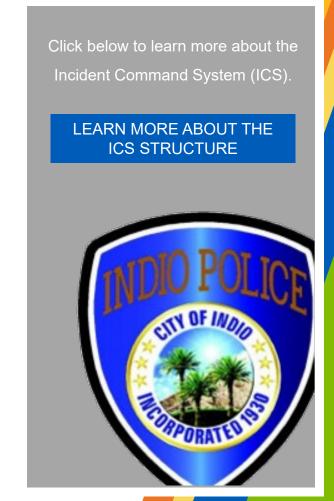
Indio, CA, Police Department

Staffing and scheduling adjustments:

- Supervisors' schedules have been adjusted based on the Incident Command System (ICS) protocol for operational periods during the state's public health emergency.
- School resource officers have been moved into patrol duties.
- Most of those with alternative schedules (e.g., four 10-hour shifts per week) have been required to work regular schedules (five 8-hour shifts).
- Patrol lieutenants' schedules were temporarily shifted two hours later to support the ICS protocols.
- Records staff members work alternating weeks because of lower workloads with courts closed during the pandemic.

Training adjustments:

- Hands-on training is suspended, although firearms training and training for new field training officers continue.
- As a result of the ICS, IPD has instituted a safety officer role during the pandemic. The safety officer demonstrates how to use PPE during roll calls.



Changes to Arrest Procedure

Agencies have changed their arrest procedures to minimize exposure to COVID-19. Common procedures include limiting misdemeanor arrests, screening arrestees at intake for COVID-19 symptoms, and adding additional protective procedures for officers during arrests. To learn more about the changes that each agency has implemented, **click on the yellow badges**.

Arlington, TX, Police



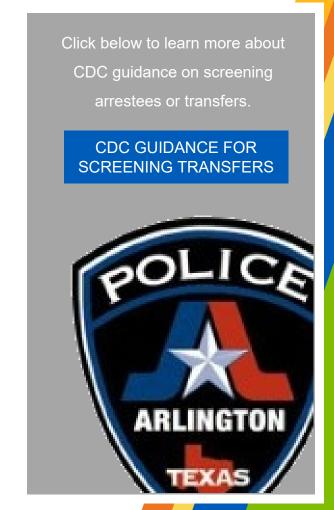
Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff

Indio, CA, Police



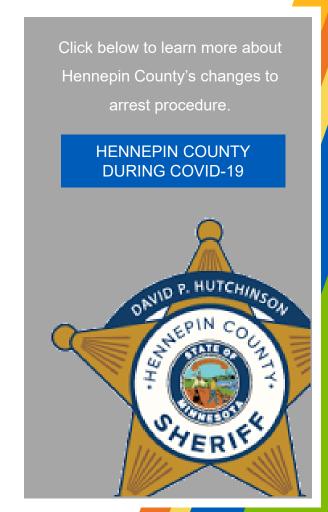
Arlington, TX, Police Department

- When handling all 911 calls, dispatchers ask callers whether those on scene have been diagnosed with COVID-19, and whether they are experiencing respiratory symptoms or have had contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or could have COVID-19. These questions allow officers to take additional precautions while on scene.
- The department conducts health screenings for all individuals taken into custody. A paramedic meets every arrested individual at the jail to ask screening questions. If necessary, the department transfers the individual to the county jail, where he or she can be isolated more easily from other incarcerated individuals.



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

- HCSO consolidates drop-off of arrested individuals to one entrance at the Hennepin County Jail.
- Arrested individuals remain in the transporting vehicle when they arrive.
 Deputies and medical professionals conduct temperature checks and health screenings from outside the vehicle.
- To ensure everyone involved in arrests understands the new procedures, HCSO began weekly Population Meetings (which have since shifted to monthly) with medical staff, jails, courts, public defenders, and county attorneys to share information.
- HCSO implemented a tracing team to reduce COVID-19 outbreaks and ensure all personnel are following the mandated safety protocols.



Indio, CA, Police Department

- Because California has instituted a zero-bail policy during the pandemic,
 IPD has shifted its focus to issuing citations. Some arrests, such as domestic violence charges, continue to be processed.
- IPD uses its tuberculosis protocol if it must transport someone who is symptomatic; the protocol includes keeping the screen in the vehicle up between officers and the individual, keeping the heating or cooling system on, and opening the car windows.
- IPD dispatchers ask COVID-19 prescreening questions, including whether anyone at the location had been ill with flu-like symptoms, whether anyone had been tested recently or was awaiting results, and whether anyone had been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the previous two weeks.

Click below to learn more about what to do if you're in contact with a suspected COVID-19 positive CDC GUIDANCE FOR SUSPECTED POSITIVE INTERACTION

Coordination with Other Agencies

During the COVID-19 pandemic, agencies have been collaborating with other first-responder agencies and local public health departments to share information and resources. To learn more about how each agency collaborates with other first-responder agencies and local health departments, **click on the yellow badges**.

Arlington, TX, Police

Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff

Indio, CA, Police



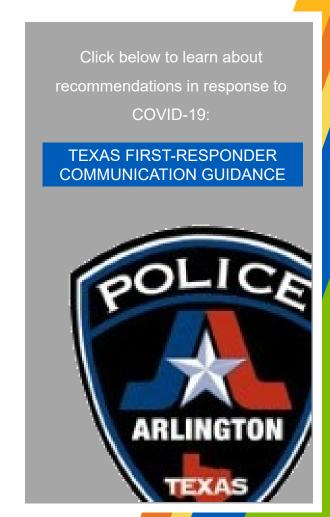
Arlington, TX, Police Department

Coordination with other first-responder agencies:

• The APD regularly benchmarks its COVID-19-related practices against the approaches of other first-responder agencies use. Throughout the pandemic, there have been open lines of communication and frequent mutual assistance between agencies. For example, agencies that have surplus masks shared with agencies that needed them. There has also been an increase in interagency cooperation and a reduction in bureaucratic processes to increase the efficiency of operations.

Coordination with the local public health agency:

 APD relies on guidance from the local health department to implement new policies and procedures, such as social distancing and required face coverings.



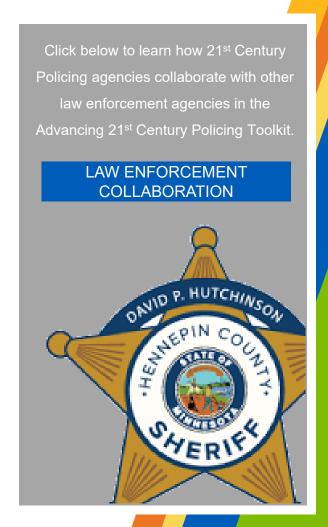
Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

Coordination with other first-responder agencies:

 HCSO needs to communicate new protocols related to the Hennepin County Jail to partners, including the courts, county attorney, emergency medical services, or police departments that drop off arrestees at the jail. Dozens of agencies and individuals need to be made aware of new processes. Once other agencies understand the new procedures, the agencies work well together.

Coordination with the local public health agency:

 HSCO maintains close and regular communication with the county health department, aligning policies closely to its guidance. The two agencies have collaborated in the past on a number of issues, such as addressing the opioid crisis. HCSO also relies on medical staff members who work in the jail.



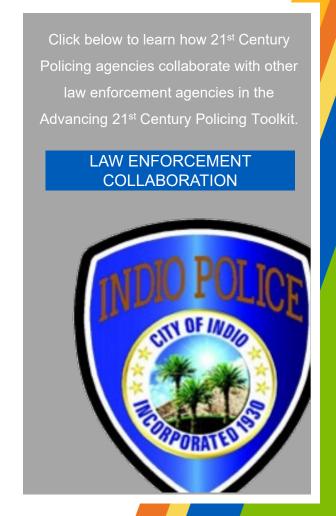
Indio, CA, Police Department

Coordination with other first-responder agencies:

• IPD holds regular countywide calls with law enforcement partners, including other local police agencies and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, to ensure consistency in approaches to the pandemic.

Coordination with the local public health agency:

 County-level health directives change frequently and are instituted without consultation with law enforcement partners, which presents challenges for IPD. For example, the county health officer ordered everyone within the county to wear a mask without consulting or briefing the district attorney or law enforcement. The directive went into place five hours after it was announced, which provided little planning time for the police department.



Strategic Communications

During the COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcement agencies are called on to utilize unique methods of communication to maintain valuable relationships with community members, deliver important information to their officers, and uphold the rule of law in their jurisdictions.

This checklist can help you assess your agency's programs.



Police agencies participating in the PPI and other COPS programs during COVID-19 have implemented strategic activities in the following areas:

Strategic Communications

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Strategic Communications

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS/
OFFICER WELLNESS

Strategic Communications

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEB RESOURCES

Click on a button above to view activities in that topic area.

GO BACK TO THE TOOLKIT

Strategic Communications

Community Engagement

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the agencies below have engaged with their communities using unique methods of strategic communication. To learn about the methods and how to implement, click on the yellow badges.





Indio, CA, Police

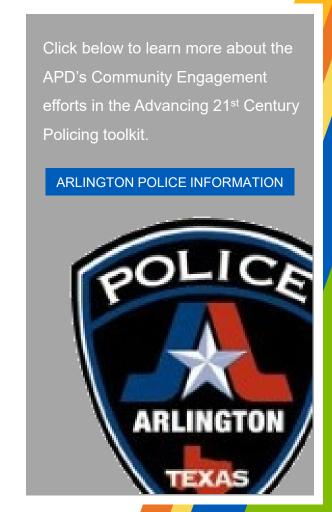


LAW ENFORCEMENT – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE COVID-19 ERA

Arlington, TX, Police Department

APD is known for its forward-leaning approach to community engagement, which it has maintained through COVID-19.

- APD began building and fostering community relationships before the pandemic arose, because, as the chief says, "We go into a crisis with relationships we have."
- With an overflow of donations coming into the police department, APD has been facilitating donations to those in need.
- APD has been keeping lines of communication open with activists and public officials, enabling the department to respond quickly in a crisis.



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

HCSO had bolstered its community outreach resources and staff prior to COVID-19, which proved to be beneficial during the outbreak.

- HCSO has been conducting outreach through the use of technology, such as Skype, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams, and podcasts.
- HCSO's video visitation technology has enabled the jailed population to see their loved ones.
- Targeted outreach to immigrant communities has included the following:
 - A virtual meeting with 40 Somali imams to help the department continue to partner with the Somali community.
 - The release of videos about COVID-19 safety and virtual jail visits in Somali, Hmong, Spanish, and East African languages.
- HCSO has been holding events such as the sheriff distributing masks and hand sanitizers at the grocery store

Watch an example of a targeted community outreach video

WATCH THE VIDEO

Learn more about conducting immigrant outreach in the Advancing 21st Century Policing Toolkit.

CONDUCTING IMMIGRANT OUTREACH



Indio, CA, Police Department

IPD is reaching out to its communities to address COVID-19 in a variety of ways.

- Holding a county-wide call with executives to ensure consistency across agencies
- Placing banners on mental health issues and community safety in front of the police department
- Holding virtual versions of for events such as Coffee with the Chief and National Night Out via Facebook Live

CLICK TO SEE INDIO'S CARDBOARD INNOVATION

- Having officers hand out masks rather than ticketing noncompliant residents
- Working with the school districts to spread messaging from the school resource officers to their students
- Directing donations from the community to the local foodbank
- Having the Police Officers' Association buy a weekly meal from a local business to feed the officers and support local businesses
- Checking in with vulnerable populations, such as senior living communities

Learn more about caring for the elderly during COVID-19

SUPPORTING THE ELDERLY DURING COVID-19



Strategic Communications

Internal Communications/Officer Wellness

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the agencies below have used unique methods of strategic communication to keep their officers mentally healthy and to keep their departments at a heightened level of force readiness. To learn about these methods and how to implement them, click on the yellow badges.

Arlington, TX, Police

Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff

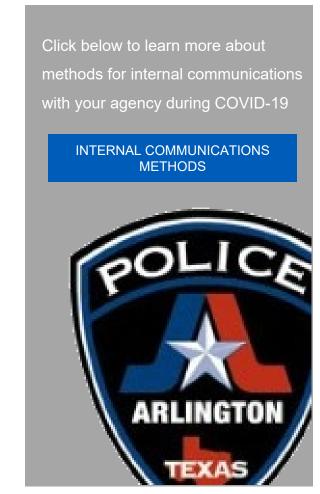
Indio, CA, Police



Arlington, TX, Police Department

APD achieved open communication and clarity in decision-making to increase mental health and functioning in its officers.

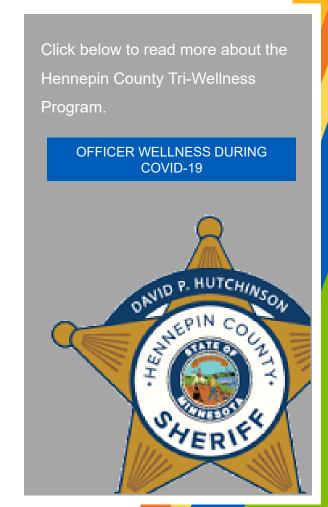
- It created a line of open, two-way communication from front-line officers to the chiefs and emergency operations
- Breaking down the normal chain of command helped to allay concerns related to the pandemic.



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

Conducting outreach with your employees during the pandemic can be just as important as reaching out to the community. HCSO connected with its officers in several ways.

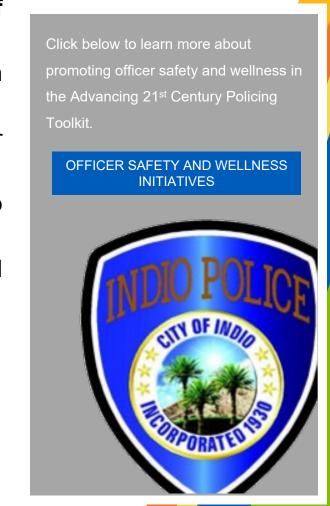
- Sending out communication relevant to families, including the nuts and bolts of the COVID-19 response
- Sharing real-time information from the county board and the county administrator, such as timelines for civilian staff returning to work and the county budget implications of COVID-19
- Creating an internal website for the sheriff's office deputies to use as a hub for accessing resources, finding information, and asking questions anonymously
- Making therapy available to the deputies.



Indio, CA, Police Department

IPD has been connecting with and looking out for the mental health of its staff in a variety of ways.

- The Chief has been personally attending roll calls and interacting in person with the detectives.
- The swearing-in ceremonies have been made available virtually for families to be able to participate.
- Information is shared with officers during roll calls that describes how to protect the officers and their families.
- IPD has highlighted the availability of employee assistance programs and peer support teams.
- IPD has engaged dispatchers on social media and featured them in the outreach.



Strategic Communications

Social Media and Web Resources

All three agencies have social media and web outlets. They send out weekly information on their Twitter and Facebook accounts, and they have a public health websites that include COVID-19 updates, precautionary measures, testing sites, vaccination sites, and general public health information for the community.

- APD uses various <u>government</u> and <u>county</u> sites to keep its community updated on all COVID-19-related matters.
- HCSO uses the <u>sheriff's website</u> along with <u>YouTube</u> to keep its community informed.
- IPD uses various websites with a wide variety of resources, including information to help-renters and homeowners during the pandemic who may need rent and mortgage assistance during the pandemic.

Effects on Crime

During the COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcement agencies continue to be called on to respond to crime. Some instances of crime have decreased as a result of social distancing and quarantine orders; others have increased for the same reasons. To learn more about how police agencies participating in the PPI and other COPS programs have implemented strategic activities while responding to crime during the era of COVID-19, **click on the yellow badges.**



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff

Indio, CA, Police



Arlington, TX, Police Department

APD noted some changes in crime in its jurisdiction during the early periods of COVID-19.

- A slight increase in domestic violence
- A moderate amount of violent crime, which the department is still responding to
- A substantial decrease in property crime and society crime

Learn about domestic violence resources

COVID-19 AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

HCSO noted some changes in crime in its jurisdiction during the early periods of COVID-19:

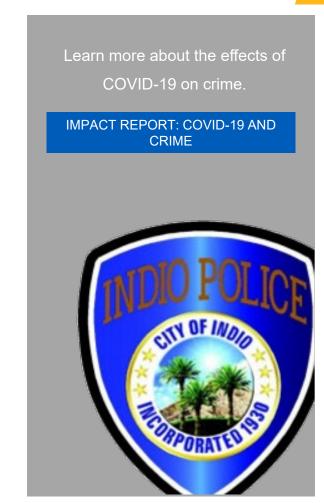
- An increase in domestic violence
- An increase in property crimes



Indio, CA, Police Department

IPD noted some changes in crime in its jurisdiction during COVID-19.

- A significant initial decrease in crime, which is now rebounding.
- An increase in robberies, with some individuals taking advantage of the requirement to wear a face mask.



Agency Profiles

Arlington, TX, Police Department

Arlington Police Department is an urban department in Texas. Consisting of 656 sworn officers, the agency appointed Alexander Jones as Chief of Police in November 2020.

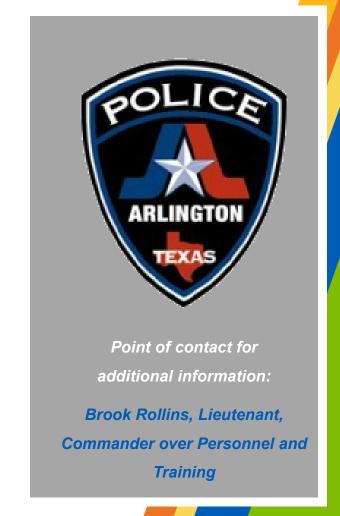
Size of City: 398,854*

Learn about the APD's 21st Century Policing Engagement

CLICK TO SEE THE REPORT

CLICK TO SEE ARLINGTON, TX, VACCINE INFORMATION

*Size of city at time of report publication in 2021.



Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff's Office

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office is considered to be a primarily urban jurisdiction with some rural areas of service. Consisting of 321 sworn officers, the agency has been led by Sheriff David Hutchinson since 2019

Size of County: 1.266 million*

Learn about the HCSO's 21st **Century Policing Engagement**

CLICK TO SEE THE REPORT



Point of contact for additional information: Tim Stout, Senior Administrative Manager

^{*}Size of county at time of report publication in 2021.

Indio, CA, Police Department

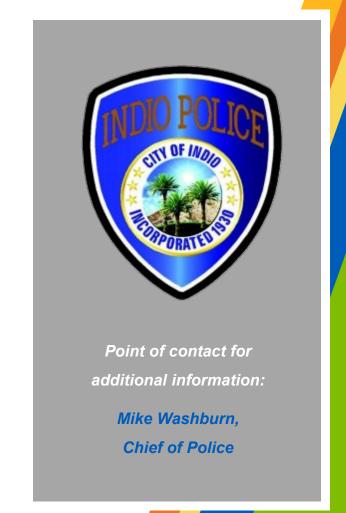
Indio Police Department is a suburban department in Southern California. Consisting of 81 sworn officers, the agency has been led by Chief Mike Washburn since August 2016.

Size of City: 91,240*

Learn about the IPD's 21st Century Policing Engagement

CLICK TO SEE THE REPORT

CLICK TO SEE INDIO, CA, VACCINE INFORMATION



^{*}Size of city at time of report publication in 2021.