



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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For Immediate Release

Ohio National Guard medical team begins support to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio National Guard medical personnel reported to Pickaway Correctional Institution Monday, April 13, as a team of about 30 Soldiers and Airmen will support the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction at the state facility near Orient, Ohio.

“The medical staff at our prisons are working tirelessly to make sure the inmates get the best care possible,” said Gov. Mike DeWine. “The Pickaway Correctional Institution is currently experiencing a nursing staff shortage because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why I’ve asked the adjutant general to send medical assistance.”

Medics from the Ohio National Guard are scheduled to be at the facility for up to 60 days, and will assist with triage, taking temperatures, checking vital signs, and other support that would fall within their medical training. They will also help provide care at the on-site, long-term care center that houses older inmates and those with chronic illnesses.

“We have a vast collection of Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen on the front lines battling this virus in their civilian jobs as medical professionals. The members on this mission are volunteers, whose medical support is not negatively impacting the resources provided at hospitals and medical facilities around the state,” said Maj. Gen. John C. Harris Jr., Ohio adjutant general.

The Ohio National Guard is also temporarily supporting the medical staff at the Federal Correctional Institution Elkton in Columbiana County.

There are approximately 600 Ohio National Guard and Ohio Military Reserve members who are serving their communities by supporting humanitarian efforts at local food banks and warehouses, collaborating with regional partners to identify and develop alternate care sites to expand medical capacity, and assisting in collecting personal protective equipment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-506-3490 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

See more about the Ohio National Guard's role during the COVID-19 response:
<https://ong.ohio.gov/stories/covid19/index.html>

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