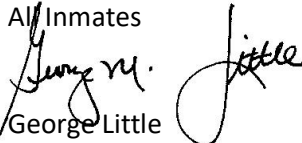




TO All Inmates
FROM 
George Little
Secretary of Corrections

DATE November 4, 2021

RE Changes in Commissary Limit & Reinstatement of Co-Pays

It is no secret that the past 20 months have been challenging, but the Department is now in a place where over 90% of our inmate population is vaccinated, and we are beginning to get back to our new normal. I want to express my sincere appreciation for your continued patience during these times, and hope that we continue to see low positivity rates amongst our population.

As we look to continue to move back into our new normal, we must continue to evaluate decisions made over this time. The below changes regarding commissary limits for DC, AC, and DCC inmates go into effect January 1, 2022, and the reinstatement of co-pays will go into effect on November 15, 2021. Once again, I appreciate your continued cooperation during this time. If you have any questions, please contact your unit team for assistance.

Commissary Spending Limits for DC, AC, and DCC Inmates

In 2020, the commissary spending limit was increased to \$100.00 per week for commissary items, and included those inmates in Disciplinary Custody (DC), Administrative Custody (AC) and Diagnostic and Classification Center (DCC) status. However, those inmates assigned to a specialized program (STGMU, BMU, SRTU etc.) continued to follow the restricted commissary spending limits as outlined by the program's respective privileges and services chart. On February 16, 2021, the **DC-ADM 815** was updated to reflect this increase along with a memo to all inmates.

This subsequent memo is to provide advanced notice that DC, AC and DCC inmates will no longer be permitted the \$100.00 per week spending limit effective **January 1, 2022**. Restricted commissary limits for DC and AC inmates not in a specialized program, will return to \$15.00 per week for commissary items. Again, DC and AC inmates in a specialized program will follow that respective program's commissary limits based on the inmate's designated phase. DCC commissary spending limits will be returned to \$45.00 per week for commissary items. **DC-ADM 815** updates will be forthcoming.

As currently mentioned in Section 2 of the **DC-ADM 815**, spending limits for inmates with restricted commissary spending limits and inmates assigned to the DCC will be increased during the state-wide fiscal year-end maintenance software non-availability. During this time, restricted commissary spending limits (DC and AC status inmates) will be increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00 and DCC commissary spending limits will be increased from \$45.00 to \$55.00.

Medical Co-Pay

Inmate medical co-pays were indefinitely suspended on May 26, 2021, as permissible by 37 PA Code § 93.12 during a medical emergency. Since this time, the Department has continued to adhere to strict mitigation strategies and provide vaccinations to our inmate population. It is critical that our medical departments have the time to treat inmates who need care. This suspension was done partly to assist those inmates who may have been unable to work during the pandemic response, and now that we are moving into normalized operations, it is now time that we once again begin charging a medical co-pay of \$5.00 in accordance with 61 Pa.C.S.A. § 3307. Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms is excluded from the reinstatement.