



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
111 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA MAINE
04333-0111

RANDALL A. LIBERTY
COMMISSIONER

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PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Randall A. Liberty, Commissioner
(207) 530-3794
Anna.Black@Maine.Gov

Maine Department of Corrections Releases Results of Tests Received from MCC Thus Far

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) announced today that it has begun to receive results from staff and inmates tested at Maine Correctional Center (MCC) in Windham following yesterday's first positive diagnosis of a prisoner with COVID-19.

Over the last 24 hours, MDOC has sent a total of 187 samples to Maine CDC's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory in Augusta. Of those, 123 samples were taken from inmates and 64 were taken from staff who were deemed close contacts with the individual who tested positive. Thus far, MDOC has received the results from 148 tests. All results are negative, which includes 64 staff and 84 inmates. Thirty-nine inmate tests are pending and expected tomorrow. Staff tests were prioritized given their travel outside of MDOC facilities that could pose a greater risk of spreading COVID-19 to other Maine residents.

MDOC expects to administer tests to additional staff and inmates on the MCC campus on Thursday, May 21, 2020 and Friday, May 22, 2020.

Yesterday, [MDOC confirmed](#) that a prisoner at the Maine Correctional Center (MCC) in Windham tested positive for COVID-19.

The male inmate in his 20s began showing symptoms on May 17, 2020. He was promptly moved to an isolation unit, which is MDOC's practice as part of COVID-19. He was tested for COVID-19 by medical staff on May 18, 2020. His test was sent to Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory in Augusta, Maine. On May 19, MDOC was notified of the positive test result.

The Department, in consultation with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC), initiated [previously developed protocols](#) to respond to a positive case, including:

- Keeping the individual to an isolation unit;
- Locking down the unit where the prisoner lived prior to his isolation;
- Monitoring by medical personnel of other individuals who are in that unit;
- Suspending movement of staff between DOC facilities;
- Triaging sick calls; and
- Deploying additional use of personal protective equipment.

The individual, who was transferred to MCC on March 3, 2020, has not required hospitalization to date.

Over the past several months, the Department has implemented prevention and preparation practices, including enhancing cleaning measures similar to those done during influenza outbreaks; suspending all visits from family, friends, and other non-professional visitors and volunteers to MDOC facilities; suspending home visits, site visits, and field work performed by adult and juvenile probation staff; suspending work release and community work programs; and working to reduce the prison population. The Department also launched a public COVID-19 Dashboard, which is updated each weekday, to provide information related to prisons' populations and COVID-19 testing information.

The Department will continue to evaluate its COVID-19 response plan, in close collaboration with Maine CDC, and make any appropriate adjustments to protect clients and staff. The COVID-19 Dashboard is updated each day with testing and results.

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