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PRESS RELEASE

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Maine Department of Corrections Confirms Case of COVID-19

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) today confirmed that a prisoner at the Maine Correctional Center (MCC) in Windham tested positive for COVID-19. This is the first case of a MDOC prisoner to be diagnosed with 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.

MDOC and Maine CDC have also initiated testing of staff and inmates at MCC working or living in areas where potential exposure could have occurred. Additionally, MDOC and Maine CDC have begun contact tracing procedures for those staff and other inmates who had close contact with the individual.

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.

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