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PRESS RELEASE

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Maine Department of Corrections Identifies COVID-19 Cases at Maine State Prison in Warren

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) announced today that seven residents and one staff member at the Maine State Prison in Warren have tested positive for COVID-19. The residents and staff member, who tested positive via rapid antigen tests, are awaiting confirmation through PCR testing. All residents live in the same housing unit. If confirmed through PCR testing, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention will investigate as an outbreak.

Per standard protocol, MDOC, in consultation with the Maine CDC, has initiated testing of residents and employees working in and around the unit, which will continue throughout the week. Additionally, MDOC, in consultation with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, will begin next week the vaccination process for residents age 60 and older who are currently eligible for vaccination under the State's age-based plan.

Currently there are no cases of COVID-19 at any other MDOC facility.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, MDOC has reported a total of 164 cases of COVID-19 among residents, including those reported today, with the majority occurring at Maine Correctional Center in Windham. Of this total, the Maine State Prison has reported a total of 10 residents and 10 staff with COVID-19, including those reported today.

Since March 2020, MDOC has implemented, and will continue to follow, COVID-19 health and safety protocols to prevent and mitigate the spread of the virus, including continued use of N95s among staff, entrance and screening protocols of staff upon arrival for shift, requiring the use of cloth face coverings among residents, physical distancing whenever possible, and enhanced cleaning practices. Additionally, residents throughout the facility are monitored for symptoms.

Information related to MDOC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including [a daily dashboard](#) of COVID-19 testing and case numbers, can be viewed [HERE](#).

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