



State of Connecticut Department of Correction

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For Immediate Release

First Department of Correction Offender Tests Positive for the COVID-19 Virus

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A Department of Correction (DOC) offender has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The 32-year-old male offender who is incarcerated at the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center in Uncasville, CT is the first DOC offender in the system to test positive for the virus.

As soon as it was suspected the offender had symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 virus he was isolated from the rest of the population. Once the positive test result was confirmed, he was placed in a negative pressure isolation room. The negative pressure room, which allows for air to flow into, but not escape from the room - thus containing airborne contaminants within the room, is located in the Corrigan building of the correctional facility.

The individual's name is being withheld due to HIPAA regulations.

The other offenders who were located in the same housing unit as the affected offender will be isolated from the rest of the population for 14 days.

All offenders in the vicinity of the effected individual received temperature checks and are continued to be monitored closely by the facility's healthcare staff.

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A review of which staff members the offender interacted with has been conducted and proper notifications are being made.

In addition to the ongoing facility and agency wide cleaning efforts, a targeted deep cleaning effort is underway in the affected unit.

The Radgowski building of the correctional facility is the same location that on March 21, 2020 a correctional staff member working within the building had also tested positive for the virus. Since that date, all offender transfers in and out of the Radgowski building have been suspended. In addition, staff temperature checks have been increased from one to two times per shift. No additional staff members at the Radgowski building have tested positive for the virus since the initial staff member tested positive.

Agency wide, The Department of Correction has taken several steps to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus to include: the suspension of outside visits; wellness checks of anyone entering the building; ongoing disinfecting efforts; all new intakes being placed in 14-day isolation units; and the reduction of inter-facility transfers.

The agency is also focused on responsibly releasing those offenders who are eligible back into the community. As a result of these efforts, the agency's incarcerated population dropped below 12,000 for the first time in nearly 27 years. In March alone the offender population has dropped by more than 500 individuals from 12,409 on March 1, 2020 to 11,900 on March 30,2020.

For more information on the Agency's efforts regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, go to Health Advisories and Information page on the DOC's website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Common-Elements/Common-Elements/Health-Information-and-Advisories>

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“We have been prepared for this moment. Thanks to the rapidly decreasing population, our facilities have the room to isolate individuals who contract the virus,” said DOC Commissioner Rollin Cook. “We also have incredibly dedicated healthcare and custody staff professionals who are willing to do whatever is necessary to care for the offenders as well as each other. I could not be prouder of their heroic efforts. Our staff will do everything possible to ensure our incarcerated individuals have the best care we can provide during this pandemic.”