



State of Connecticut Department of Correction

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For Immediate Release **Department of Correction Completes First Round of Mass Testing of Staff and Offenders**

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Following the guidance of Governor Ned Lamont, the Department of Correction has completed the first round of mass testing of its staff and the offenders they supervise.

The goal to test as many staff members and incarcerated offenders as possible began on May 13, 2020 at the Osborn Correctional Institution and concluded on June 25, with the testing of the Garner Correctional Institution.

With 9,504 offenders tested across 14 facilities, there were 832 positive results for an overall positive test rate of 9%. Not counting the Osborn facility, the overall percentage rate of offenders opting to be tested, was in the high 90's. This week, agency healthcare staff will be reoffering testing to the approximately 440 offenders who had previously opted out, with the goal of achieving a 90% plus overall facility compliance rate.

All but two of the offenders who tested positive as part of the mass testing were asymptomatic. The remainder of the offenders who tested positive stayed asymptomatic throughout the 14-day isolation and monitoring period.

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At present, out of the approximately 10,000 incarcerated offenders, only three are still recuperating from coronavirus related symptoms. The mass testing results do not include the 510 offenders who had previously contracted the virus prior to the start of the mass testing.

Mass testing of the Department's staff is also being conducted, and is still ongoing. To date a total of 593 correctional professionals have been tested, with all but one of the results coming back as negative for the novel coronavirus.

Of the approximately 6,000 total staff members working for the Department of Correction, it has been just over a month since a staff member has tested positive for the virus. Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic some four months ago, 380 employees have tested positive for the virus – all but three of them have since recovered and returned to work. It is anticipated that the remaining three staff members will return to work within the next few weeks.

Department of Correction staff testing numbers are expected to increase dramatically as the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) entered into an agreement with the State's Office of Labor Relations (OLR) to mandate Covid-19 testing of all DOC staff members who have direct contact with the offender population. The details regarding the mandated testing are still being developed.

Some of the highlights of the testing results include:

- No CT DOC staff member has tested positive since May 28, 2020.
- No offenders at the State's only facility for females, The York Correctional Institution, tested positive for the virus.
- No offenders housed at the Manson Youth Institution tested positive for the virus.
- A total of 469 offenders housed at the Garner Correctional Institution (which houses offenders with acute mental health Issues) were tested for the virus, with only one result coming back positive – the individual who tested positive is asymptomatic.
- With 9,504 offenders tested, the overall percentage of positive test results stands at 9%.

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**Department of Correction Mass Testing of Offenders
(As of June 29, 2020)**

Facility	Total # of offenders tested	Compliance rate	Total # positive results	Percent Positive Rate
OSBORN CI	617	58%	146	24%
CORR/RADG	960	100%	152	16%
BROOKLYN CI	295	100%	132	45%
ROBINSON CI	784	92%	169	22%
Bridgeport CC	569	92%	62	11%
WILLARD - CYBULSKI CI	547	99%	16	3%
NEW HAVEN CC	620	91%	74	12%
HARTFORD CC	792	99%	62	8%
CHESHIRE CI	1,103	99%	8	1%
MACDOUGALL - WALKER CI	1,862	100%	3	0%
GARNER CI	518	98%	1	0%
MANSON YOUTH INSITUTION	166	100%	0	0%
NORHTERN CI	108	89%	7	6%
YORK CI	563	99%	0	0%
Totals:	9504		832	9%

The test results come as the Department’s incarcerated population continues to decline. It is anticipated that within the next few days the number of incarcerated individuals within the Connecticut DOC will drop below half of its all-time high of 19,894, which was reached on February 1, 2008.

This latest milestone in the decrease of the offender population is due in large part to the Department’s continued emphasis on the responsible discretionary release of eligible offenders back into the community. Since March 1, 2020, the Department’s incarcerated population has dropped by more than 2,400.

“Having spent more than 30 years with the Department of Correction, I was here when the population ballooned and now I am seeing it shrink like never before. In short, I have learned to expect the unexpected,” said Interim Commissioner Angel Quiros. “As we continue to manage and prepare for future obstacles related to the Covid-19 pandemic, one thing that I am certain of is the ability of the agency’s amazing staff to adapt to, and overcome any future challenges.”