



## State of Connecticut Department of Correction

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For Immediate Release

# Asymptomatic Positive Test Results for COVID-19 Virus Prompt Lockdown of the Osborn Correctional Institution

Friday, May 15, 2020

The Connecticut Department of Correction's Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers, CT has been placed on lockdown after 105 asymptomatic offenders tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

The Department of Correction began the process of testing all staff and offenders, starting at the Osborn facility, on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. After two days of testing a total of 617 offenders were tested, resulting in 105 of those testing positive for the virus.

A portion of the offender population opted out of being tested. Out of an abundance of caution these offenders will be treated as if they are asymptomatic carriers of the virus. The isolation period will last for 14 days.

The current incarcerated population of the Osborn facility is approximately 1,060 individuals.

As has been the Department's practice, all offenders will be monitored and if anyone becomes symptomatic, they will be isolated, tested, and if positive transferred to the Medical Isolation Unit at the Northern Correctional Institution.

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Testing for Department of Correction staff members from area facilities (including Osborn, Northern, Robinson and Willard-Cybulski) began on May 13. So far, a total of 163 staff members have been tested – results are still pending.

Of the 369 staff members agency-wide who have tested positive prior to May 13, approximately 300 have returned to work.

“We are grateful to see the availability for mass testing become a reality. By testing everybody - staff as well as offenders, we are better able to protect everybody, those who are infected and those who are not.” said Commissioner Rollin Cook. “The hope is that no one who tests positive becomes symptomatic, but if they do we are prepared to care for them.”

To date, of the approximately 540 offenders who tested positive and developed symptoms associated with the novel coronavirus, more than 430 (so far) have recovered.