



State of Connecticut Department of Correction

Contact: Office of Public Information
Director of External Affairs: Karen Martucci
Public Information Officer: Andrius Banevicius
Telephone: (860) 692-7780 **Fax:** (860) 692-7783
doc.pio@ct.gov

For Immediate Release

Department of Correction Conducts Second Round of Mass Testing of Staff and Offenders

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Acting on the guidance of Governor Ned Lamont, the Department of Correction has initiated the second round of mass testing of its staff and the offenders they supervise.

Unlike the first round of testing, which was voluntary, the second round of staff testing is mandatory 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 mandatory testing of DOC Staff began on Friday, July 17 at the Cheshire and Garner Correctional Institutions. Testing has since been performed at the following facilities: The Corrigan-Radgowski and Hartford Correctional Centers; as well as the Garner, MacDougall-Walker, Osborn, Robinson, and York Correctional Institutions. So far, for the second round of testing a total of 2,538 staff members have been tested, with only three asymptomatic positive results – a .1% positivity rate. In all, 386 staff members have contracted the virus; while 378 have recovered.

-more-

With regards to the offender population, the second round of testing began on Thursday, July 23, at the Robinson Correctional Institution and has since moved on to the Osborn Correctional Institution. To date a total of 834 offenders were tested between the two facilities with 770 individuals testing negative, and 64 testing as asymptomatic positives – for an 8% positivity rate. The offenders who tested asymptomatic positive are being isolated and monitored to insure they do not develop any symptoms associated with the novel coronavirus.

The first round of testing of more than 9,500 offenders resulted in 830 asymptomatic positive results. Only two of the offenders who tested positive during the first round of testing developed symptoms associated with the novel coronavirus. Both those individuals have since recovered.

Currently out of the approximately 9,700 incarcerated offenders, only one is recuperating from coronavirus related symptoms.

The ultimate goal is to continue testing staff and offenders until none test positive for the virus.

“I cannot say enough about the outstanding job that our health services and custody staff have done, and continue to do, during the pandemic,” said Interim Commissioner Angel Quiros. “It is very reassuring to know that no matter what comes, they will handle it.”