



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW PROCEDURES THAT WERE PUT IN PLACE AT MONROE COUNTY JAIL DETECT COVID-19 POSITIVE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL PRIOR TO BEING PUT IN GENERAL POPULATION

*Individual Medically Isolated and Quarantined at MCSO Brighton Facility Deemed COVID
Confinement Area*

Rochester, NY(April 13, 2020) – On Easter morning, April 12, 2020, during a pro-active temperature screening of inmates at the Monroe County Jail, located at 130 S. Plymouth Ave., Rochester, one incarcerated individual who was housed in the jail's reception area presented a fever of 100.9 degrees.

As part of MCSO's COVID-19 protocols, all individuals entering the MCJ are housed in the jail's reception area with individual cells, having solid doors, for a 14-day quarantine before being placed in general population. The timeline of reception was changed from five days to 14. The inmates housed in the reception area also wear protective masks when outside the cell.

MCSO medical staff tested the individual for COVID-19; test results came back later that evening positive. During the testing process the inmate disclosed he had been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive patient prior to his arrest, which he did not disclose upon entry.

The inmate was transported to Strong Memorial Hospital to be examined for the fever and pre-existing injuries sustained prior to incarceration. The inmate was discharged from the hospital and transported to MCSO's Brighton facility deemed a COVID Confinement Area, located at 750 E. Henrietta Rd. Here, the incarcerated individual receives additional medical attention and security.



Inmate Background:

- Individual arrested by Rochester Police Dept. on April 7, 2020 for a crime that occurred on April 6, 2020
- RPD charged individual with the following:
 - Reckless Endangerment in the 1st degree (Class-D Felony)
 - Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd degree (Class-C Felony)
- Individual suffered gunshot wounds and was transported to and subsequently cleared by Strong Memorial Hospital before being transported to the Monroe County Jail
- As part of new intake procedures for all coming into the jail due to COVID-19, the inmate wore a mask and was triaged by nursing staff prior to entering. This included a temperature check as well as questions related to symptoms and contact with individuals positive for COVID-19. The inmate had no symptoms and denied being around anyone who was COVID-19 positive.
- All inmates in the reception area are temperature screened twice a day; inmates in the rest of jail are checked multiple times a week
- The individual called his family members

Preventing any additional infections of the novel coronavirus among employees and inmates is paramount. MCSO reviewed all video surveillance from the incarcerated individual's date of entry, through present to identify deputies, staff and inmates who may have come in contact with the individual. A review of the videotape shows the masking procedures were followed by the individual or those around the individual. All staff who came in contact with the infected individual was contacted. All staff is temperature screened at least once per day every work day. None reported any symptoms, to include fever. The entire jail population was temperature screened again; none presented symptoms.

"The Jail Bureau put sound protocols and mediation strategies in place to minimize risk," said Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter. "The safety, health and well-being of our deputies, staff, and inmates has always remained our top priority."

MCSO notified the following individuals/agencies about the COVID positive case:

- Rochester Police Department and those individuals who came in close contact with the infected individual
- Monroe County Public Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Mendoza
- Monroe County Executive Adam Bello
- Monroe County Public Defender's Office for notify to infected individual's defense attorney; all conversations with attorney were made behind protective window, to include glass
- NYS Commission of Corrections



Prior to the COVID positive case, MCSO put the following preventive measures in place:

1. MCSO screens everyone who enters MCSO facilities, to include mandatory temperature checks, a series of questions, and hand sanitization before entering all facilities
2. MCSO increased the inmate classification period from maximum five to 14 business days, ensuring inmates do not enter general population with flu-like symptoms
3. MCSO staff and health care provider Prime Care, contracted by MCSO, continuously educates inmates and staff on precautions to take, to include sanitization and social distancing
4. Every employee has been provided PPE
5. Mandatory masking of all deputies and staff at MCJ and the COVID Confinement Area
6. All inmates are offered masks and unlimited soap and water; all trained in how to don and doff masks
7. MCSO deputies, staff and inmates continuously sanitizing MCJ and COVID Confinement Area
8. Suspended inmate visitations with the exception of professional visits, which occur behind protective windows; MCSO provided 23 additional free phones to compensate for the inconvenience
9. Kitchen trustees are screened and temperatures taken prior to shift each day
10. MCSO screened and cleared members of clergy in an effort to continue to provide spiritual support to inmates during this challenging time
11. Deputy roll calls reduced in third to create social distancing; spreading the roll calls out so fewer deputies in room at same time
12. MCSO established a standalone COVID Confinement Area
13. In consideration of inmates' family or loved ones, a Family Information Hotline has been established (753-4283) to provide information and answer questions. The hotline is available Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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