



# Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY  
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

Undersheriff Corey K. Brown

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **THREE MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S JAIL DEPUTIES TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19; NO OTHER KNOWN COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES IN MCJ**

*Deputies Quarantined at Home*

**Rochester, NY (May 23, 2020)** – Three Monroe County Sheriff's jail deputies have tested positive for COVID-19. The COVID positive deputies learned of their test results on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, Friday, May 22, 2020, and Saturday May 23, 2020. Upon learning of the positive test results of each, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office COVID Command Post immediately initiated contact tracing protocols. The three COVID positive deputies are quarantined at home.

Preventing any additional infections of the novel coronavirus among employees and inmates is paramount. MCSO reviewed all pertinent video surveillance to identify deputies, staff and inmates who may have come in contact with the COVID positive deputies. A review of the videotape shows the masking and personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols were followed by the infected deputies every time they came in contact with the jail population, therefore no inmates were exposed to the virus. All staff members who came in contact with the infected deputies were tested for COVID-19 and are quarantined for 14 days. We are awaiting test results.

It is unknown where or when the deputies contracted COVID-19. MCSO tracing shows no correlation between the deputies.

As part of MCSO's COVID-19 protocols, all individuals entering the MCJ are screened, to include temperature checks. All staff is temperature screened at least once per day, every work day. None reported any symptoms, to include fever. The entire jail population is continually temperature screened. MCSO is working with the Monroe County Department of Public Health on a continuous basis to review procedures.

*“The health, safety and welfare of our staff and inmates is our top priority,” said Monroe County Sheriff **Todd K. Baxter.** “The reason for implementing the MCSO COVID Command Post several months ago was to prepare for such an event. This allowed for us to be prepared for and quickly respond to the situation at hand, preventing additional exposure. The affected deputies remain in our thoughts and we wish them a speedy recovery.”*

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

- Monroe County Public Health Department
- NYS Commission of Corrections

As MCSO previously reported, we are continuing the following protocols:

1. 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
2. Every employee has been provided PPE
3. All inmates are offered masks and unlimited soap and water; all trained in how to don and doff masks
4. Deputy roll calls reduced in third to create social distancing; spreading the roll calls out so fewer deputies in room at same time

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