



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATING UNKNOWN MEDICAL CONDITION AFFECTING FOUR INMATES INSIDE MONROE COUNTY JAIL *Four Inmates Transported to Hospital; One Deputy Injured While Responding to the Incident and Transported*

Rochester, NY (May 13, 2020) – On today's date, Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 12:41 p.m., Monroe County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 3rd floor of the Monroe County Jail for the report of two inmates who were incoherent, lethargic, and experiencing unknown medical conditions. Responding deputies called a Code Blue medical response, alerting everyone inside the jail to a potential medical event.

Upon responding to the initial call, deputies noticed two additional inmates on the same floor also experiencing similar symptoms and unknown medical conditions, for a total of four inmates. Responding deputies and our medical staff, Prime Care, initiated medical assistance. The Rochester Fire Department and AMR Ambulance responded and assumed medical treatment.

While running in response to the Code Blue, one MCSO deputy fell and sustained a head injury, becoming unconscious. In all, four inmates and one deputy were transported to area hospitals. The deputy's injuries are non-life threatening. All four inmates were stable upon transport, experiencing what appeared to be non-life threatening conditions.

As a result, the Monroe County Jail was immediately placed into lockdown. A K-9 sweep and search of the jail is underway. All inmates on the 3rd floor are in the process of being medically screened and evaluated.

At this time, preliminary information leads MCSO to believe a substance may have entered the jail through a piece of mail, causing the inmates' reactions. This can occur through a synthetic liquid substance that is



absorbed by paper and subsequently dries, leaving little to no trace. MCSO has several screening procedures in place to check each individual piece of mail.

MCSO is obligated to provide mail to inmates by law. MCSO is working with the NYS Commission of Corrections to identify what adjustments can be made to its mail procedures.

As with all critical incidents, MCSO is conducting an investigation to locate and identify the source which sickened the inmates.

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