

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons, Paul G. Shavack, Public Information Officer

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Two Contract Behavioral Healthcare Workers Test Positive for COVID-19

Dover, DE – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) announced today that two contract behavioral healthcare workers - one assigned to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) and one assigned to Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) - have tested positive for COVID-19.

- The JTVCC contract behavioral healthcare worker was last at that facility 10 days ago, on Thursday, March 26. The behavioral healthcare worker sought medical attention for flu-like symptoms on Wednesday, April 1, at which time a COVID-19 test was administered. The positive COVID-19 test result was received today and verified by the DOC.
- The HRYCI contract behavioral healthcare worker was last at that facility on Wednesday, April 1. After beginning to experience flu-like symptoms, the behavioral healthcare worker sought medical attention later that same day, at which time a COVID-19 test was administered. The behavioral healthcare worker continued to self-isolate at home. The positive COVID-19 test result was received today and verified by the DOC.

Officers and healthcare workers who worked in close contact with these behavioral healthcare workers are being given guidance on self-isolation. The DOC is employing specialized cleaning equipment to decontaminate areas in both facilities and is carefully monitoring all officers, other employees and inmates at JTVCC and HRYCI for any symptoms and will immediately isolate, assess and treat any individual who demonstrates any sign of illness.

No additional information will be provided about the identity of the behavioral healthcare workers for privacy protection.

"In addition to rigorous prevention protocols, screening of every person who enters every correctional facilities, and multiple cleanings each day across our facilities, the DOC has implemented targeted quarantine where necessary and also deployed new protective measures, including specialized equipment to decontaminate prison areas," **Commissioner Claire DeMatteis said**. "I want to emphasize that no inmate within Delaware's correctional system has tested positive for COVID-19."

This weekend, the DOC announced that a [Correctional Officer assigned to JTVCC tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday, April 3](#) and a [Correctional Officer at JTVCC tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday, April 4](#). Both Correctional Officers are continuing to self-isolate and are recovering at home. The DOC has also announced that a contract healthcare worker assigned to New Castle Community Corrections Center, [who had self-quarantined for 18 days, tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday, April 2](#).

The DOC maintains robust COVID-19 screening and cleaning practices as part of an infectious disease management plan. All persons entering any DOC facility are screened for COVID-19, including a series of questions and a forehead temperature check with a digital thermometer. Staff who present with symptoms are sent home to self-quarantine and contact their health care provider in accordance with the established Delaware Department of Correction COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure. Newly-arriving inmates to DOC facilities are isolated from the rest of the inmate population for 14-days while being monitored for symptoms of respiratory infection.

Get the latest news and information about the DOC's response to COVID-19 on <https://doc.delaware.gov> and follow DOC at *decorrection* on Facebook and Twitter.

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