

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

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DOC announces inmate death

Dover, DE -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced that **Jackie R. Lovett**, a 71 year-old inmate with underlying health conditions from Sussex Correctional Institution died on Wednesday, August 5 at Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus from complications from hypothyroidism and COVID.

Lovett was tested for COVID-19 on July 5 and tested positive as DOC initiated proactive testing of all inmates as part of its aggressive COVID-19 mitigation efforts after a cluster of cases was identified through proactive monitoring and testing.

After his positive COVID-19 test result was returned, Lovett was transferred to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center where he initially received treatment in the facility's COVID-19 Treatment Center. As symptoms developed, he was admitted to Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus for treatment on July 14, where his family was engaged in treatment decision-making. In recent days, Lovett's condition deteriorated and he was pronounced dead by hospital staff at 3:21 a.m. today.

Lovett's body was released to the Delaware Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death.

Lovett, from Salisbury, MD, has been in DOC custody since 1982 and was serving two life sentences for two counts of 1st Degree Murder and Possession of a Deadly Weapon.

[This week DOC announced that 350 inmates who tested positive last month for COVID-19 at two facilities have recovered from the illness.](#) **As of August 5, only 7 of the remaining inmates with active COVID-19 infection are symptomatic, including 2 inmates who are hospitalized. No inmates with COVID-19 infection remain on a ventilator.**

Get updated information about the DOC's response to COVID-19 and read previous announcements of positive COVID-19 cases by visiting <https://doc.delaware.gov>, and follow *decorrection* on Facebook and Twitter.