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Media Advisory

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DOC MONITORING POSSIBLE INMATE TB CASE

JUNEAU – Department of Corrections medical staff is closely monitoring a possible case of tuberculosis (TB) with an inmate at the 1,596-bed Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona. Close to 1,000 Alaska inmates are housed at the Corrections Corporation of America prison through a contract with the Department of Corrections.

The inmate in question was transported to a nearby hospital on Friday after experiencing a medical emergency at the facility. Test results to confirm TB are pending, however facility management has taken precautionary steps including locking down the housing unit where the inmate resided.

Facility medical staff are conducting skin tests for all offenders housed in that unit, along with staff or other inmates believed to have been in contact with the inmate. Pinal Country (Arizona) Health Department officials have been notified and will be on-site to assess the situation and provide further guidance as to precautionary measures that might be taken.

There are no active TB cases among inmates in Alaska. One inmate came into the system already under treatment for a previous positive diagnosis of TB, but have never presented with symptoms or been infectious while incarcerated.

