

Nancy Dahlstrom
Commissioner



Department of
Corrections

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Enhanced Screening Measures Identify COVID-19 Case at FCC

7/8/2020 (Anchorage) – A newly remanded inmate at the Fairbanks Correctional Center (FCC) has tested positive for COVID-19. DOC began performing COVID testing on all new remanded offenders statewide July 1, 2020. Additionally, new remands are quarantined for 14 days prior to being introduced to the general population, a policy that has been in effect since late May.

“I am grateful that DOC and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) were able to work collaboratively to make testing all new remands possible,” said Nancy Dahlstrom, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections. “As we continue to see a rise in cases throughout the state, it is important that we remain vigilant in protecting the health and safety of those who live and work in our institutions.”

Because DOC facilities statewide see roughly 600 new remands per week, the EOC needed to ensure not only the availability of tests but also the ability of the labs to process those tests prior to implementing this new policy.

To date, DOC has administered 1,268 tests, with 964 negatives and 300 pending. The positive at FCC is the third confirmed COVID-19 case in an inmate. In addition to testing at remand, DOC also performs testing prior to an inmate being transferred to another facility or a community residential center (CRC), prior to going to an outside medical appointment and before moving to API or releasing to a treatment facility.

“Identifying the positive case at FCC through our new screening process is an indication that it is working. It is our goal to identify positive cases quickly as early detection is critical to keeping the rest of our inmate population and staff safe,” said Dahlstrom.

The individual was in quarantine status when the positive test result was received, so DOC anticipates exposure to be limited. FCC continues to implement the DOC response plan and take swift action to protect the health and welfare of inmates and staff at the facility.

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