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**Department of Health completing testing of New Mexico
Corrections Department facility staff ahead of schedule**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Corrections Department announce testing of personnel at all 11 state prison facilities completed this week.

“The importance of testing all Corrections facility staff can’t be emphasized enough,” said Department of Health Cabinet Secretary Kathy Kunkel. “Their health is a priority to control any widespread COVID-19 activity among our state prison population.”

As of today, all 2,486 facility staff have been tested with the exception of a few on approved long-term leave. Those staff that were unavailable will be tested before being permitted to work in facility upon their return. The target for inmate testing, 25% of the inmate population, is on track to be completed this Monday, May 11th. As of this afternoon, more than 800 inmates have been tested.

“Facility staff are critical workers providing essential services and testing them is a crucial preventative step. The ability to test inmate populations at this scale enables us to identify asymptomatic individuals and take proactive steps to ensure care and contain spread.” said Corrections Department Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero. “The combined efforts of institutional staff and our partners in the medical field have made it possible for testing efforts to progress ahead of schedule.”

Testing of facility personnel and increased inmate testing are just a few of the many safeguards the New Mexico Corrections Department has taken to reduce risk for all employees as well as inmates. For a comprehensive list of precautions visit <https://cd.nm.gov/covid-19-updates/>.

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The Department of Health updates the latest testing numbers seven days a week at <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>. There you will also find information about COVID-19 cases across the state as well as a directory of testing locations in your area and a portal to download test results.

In addition, New Mexicans can continue to call with health-related questions to the Department of Health's coronavirus hotline at 855-600-3453. For non-health-related questions or concerns call 833-551-0518 or visit newmexico.gov.

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