



NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NMCD announces 116 new positive cases at Otero County Prison Facility

SANTA FE—The New Mexico Corrections Department on Tuesday reported 116 new positive COVID-19 cases in the state-contracted portion of Otero County Prison Facility (OCPF) operated by Management and Training Corporation.

Over the weekend, four inmates reported feeling unwell. They were placed in medical observation and tested for COVID-19. Positive results were returned for all four individuals. Every inmate that may have had any form of contact or may have occupied the same space with these four individuals were tested on Sunday, May 31, and those 164 tests resulted in 116 new cases. The remainder of the inmate population, 379, were retested today. At present, four inmates are being cared for at the El Paso University Hospital and the remainder of the positive cases are asymptomatic.

NMCD is taking aggressive steps to protect both staff and inmates. Positive cases are held separately from negative cases and all housing units remain completely separated from one another. Regular use of specialized sanitation equipment has been incorporated and all staff are outfitted in full Personal Protective Equipment.

In collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Corrections Department has implemented a testing plan which will enable rapid detection and separation of additional positive cases. All affected areas are tested every 3-4 days and other areas of the facility will be tested weekly. Staff members working in affected areas will also be tested weekly and will continue to be closely monitored for symptoms.

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