

For Immediate Release

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For More Information, Contact:

Jeff Wilhite

217-416-1650

Jeff.Wilhite@co.sangamon.il.us

Sangamon County Jail COVID-19 Outbreak

The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office was notified today by Sangamon County Public Health that due to connected positive cases of Covid 19, the County Jail will be declared an outbreak. The outbreak includes 5 staff members and 1 inmate.

Since the start of the pandemic, the jail has been on constant safety protocols and has worked diligently with Public Health to mitigate the virus . Those mitigations have included the following;

1. Offsite detention facility for suspected or confirmed Covid 19 detainees
2. Transitional housing units for isolation inmates for up to 14 days before transferring to the general population.
3. All staff have worn surgical masks every shift, every day.
4. All staff have worn N-95 masks when recommended by CDC guidelines. (When dealing with a suspected positive inmate)
5. All inmates have worn masks since July 31st.
6. Continued to educate staff on protocols and Covid 19 related updates. (CDC and Public Health recommendations)
7. Monitored all persons entering the facility for temperature and asked questions about recent interactions.

In addition, due to the outbreak declaration;

1. The jail has been put on full lockdown.
 - a. No visitors
 - b. Only essential staff and court-mandated personnel.
2. Continued testing amongst staff and inmates.
3. Continue to consult with Sangamon County Public Health.
4. Impacted employees will be on leave until they are cleared by Public Health to return to work.
5. The jail will be deep cleaned on a continual daily basis.

The Sheriff's Office has taken this virus very serious since the beginning of the pandemic. We will continue protocols to prevent the introduction and spread of the virus by working with our health care providers and experts.