



**BECKY BARTLETT**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

## COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
669 WASHINGTON STREET  
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18042  
Phone: 610-829-6250  
Fax: 610-559-3722  
Email: [bbartlett@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:bbartlett@northamptoncounty.org)

**March 12, 2021**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Becky Bartlett**

**610-829-6250**

[bbartlett@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:bbartlett@northamptoncounty.org)

### **Update on Northampton County Prison**

**WHO: Department of Corrections**

**WHAT: Update on COVID-19 cases**

**WHERE: Northampton County Prison**

**WHEN: March 12, 2021**

The Director of Corrections reports that, since the beginning of the pandemic, 174 inmates have tested positive for COVID-19. All have finished their quarantine periods or are no longer at Northampton County Prison (NCP). Since March 2020, NCP has conducted 2,446 tests for COVID-19 on inmates. All new inmates coming into the facility receive a test before they are transferred to General Population; residents are tested on a random basis.

Fifty-two NCP employees have tested positive for the virus since the start of the pandemic. One is in quarantine, fifty-one have returned to work.

“The staff at NCP has done extraordinary work to keep themselves and the inmates safe,” says Lamont McClure. “I encourage everyone to continue wearing their masks, staying six feet apart and getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. If we work together, we can crush this virus.”

There are currently 541 inmates in residence at NCP. Thirty-one non-violent offenders have been granted extended furloughs.

NCP staff have the option to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine; some have already received the inoculation. PrimeCare Medical is working with the state to make the vaccination available to all NCP inmates when supplies become available.

To protect the health of inmates and staff, volunteers, visitors and tours were banned from the prison on March 10, 2020. NCP has suspended all programs and is reevaluating when to restart those services. Inmates can contact their loved ones via phone, tablets or mail.

The Prison's vendor, PrimeCare Medical, is closely monitoring the health of the inmates. Staff and inmates are following guidelines established by PrimeCare Medical to prevent further transmission of the virus. Due to the recent rise in cases, all inmates and employees wear masks in the facility and have their temperatures checked multiple times a day. Updated cleaning procedures have been established. New inmates are tested upon arrival and random testing takes place throughout the prison on a regular basis. NCP began universal testing for COVID-19 on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

A COVID-19 drive-through testing site is open at 3100 Emrick Blvd. Bethlehem Township, 18020. Hours of operation are Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00AM – 4:00PM and Tuesday/Thursday from 11:00AM to 6:00PM. The site is open on every Saturday from 9:00AM – 12:00 Noon. The drive-through testing center is located in the parking area to the rear of the Coordinated Health Building and is separate from patient parking and routine patient care. The majority of patients tested at this site receive their results in one-to-two days.

A Physician's order is not required but, to be eligible for testing, individuals must report or display one or more CDC-recognized symptoms of COVID-19: fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or loss of taste and/or smell. The drive-through site is open to everyone, **but only residents of Northampton County will receive a free test if they do not have health coverage.** All testing will be through HNL Lab Medicine unless insurance requires an alternate laboratory. Participants should bring a photo ID and their insurance card, if they have one, with them to the testing site.

###