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For Immediate Release:

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Northwest State Correctional Facility Modified Lockdown

Waterbury, Vt., April 6, 2020 – The Vermont Department of Corrections announced today that Northwest State Correctional Facility in Swanton, Vt. will continue to operate in a modified lockdown until the recommended time for monitoring for the novel coronavirus concludes. This is due to a possible coronavirus exposure. The modified lockdown began yesterday, April 5.

A facility staff member is currently sick with COVID-19 like symptoms awaiting a second round of test results. The first test came back negative, but given the symptoms, a second test was ordered. This staff member was last at the facility on March 26 and began to show symptoms on March 28, within the 48-hour period when risk of transmission is thought to be greatest.

The modified lockdown is a preventative measure to mitigate any potential spread of the virus. Staff and inmates will be issued face masks and have their temperatures checked at the end of every shift. Inmates will receive meals in their cells and be provided out of cell recreation time in small numbers in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

The facility continues to conduct extensive environmental cleaning. Hand soap and hand sanitizer is available for all staff and inmates.

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