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For Immediate Release

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BEGINS NEW ROUND OF MASS COVID-19 TESTING

All Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility staff and inmates to be tested Thursday

Waterbury, Vt., May 13, 2020 – Vermont Department of Health staff will be on site at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility on Thursday, May 14 to conduct a new round of mass COVID-19 testing at Chittenden Regional Correction Facility.

On Monday, May 11, Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility staff volunteered to be tested for coronavirus. Of the 84 tests, one staff member tested positive. The remaining 47 staff and all 74 inmates at CRCF will be tested on Thursday.

“Our newest procedures are designed to prioritize the safety of staff, inmates and the community all at the same time,” said Interim Commissioner Jim Baker. “We begin by testing staff who volunteer. One positive staff tests triggers testing of the entire staff and inmate population.”

These tests are part of the Department of Correction’s plan to test all staff and inmates at Vermont correctional facilities in a fashion which mitigates the spread of the virus.

Commissioner Baker said, “We’re grateful for the around-the-clock work by the teams at DOC and the Department of Health in keeping us at the forefront of implementing best practices. The support inmates are giving staff is also being noticed and recognized. It drives home the fact that we’re all in this together.”

Daily updates on the COVID-19 response in Vermont’s correctional facilities can be found at <https://doc.vermont.gov/covid-19-information-page>.

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