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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **COVID-19 OUTBREAK AT NORTHERN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

*Newport facility in full lockdown following 22 positive cases*

Waterbury, Vt., February 26, 2021 – Vermont Department of Corrections (Vermont DOC) is reporting a Covid-19 outbreak at Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) in Newport after one staff member and 21 incarcerated individuals tested positive for the virus. The 22 total cases were detected in testing conducted February 23, 2021.

The facility was placed in full lockdown upon receipt of the positive results on February 25. Contact tracing is underway, and Vermont DOC and Vermont Health Department’s Rapid Response Team are outlining follow-up actions and testing.

In addition to the cases at NSCF, a staff member from Middlebury Probation and Parole (MIPP) also tested positive on February 23. As of Friday, a total of six staff and 30 incarcerated individuals are positive for the virus.

Full lockdowns are also in place at Northwest State Correctional Facility and Northeast Correctional Complex as a result of positive cases at those facilities. All other state facilities are in modified lockdown.

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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