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## For Immediate Release

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### **TESTING SHOWS NO NEW COVID-19 CASES AT NORTHERN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

*All staff and inmates test negative for coronavirus during mass testing of fifth Vermont facility*

Waterbury, Vt., June 3, 2020 – COVID-19 test results from Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) in Newport detected no new cases of coronavirus. The Vermont Department of Health performed a total of 387 inmate tests and 143 staff tests at the facility on Monday, June 1.

NSCF is the fifth Vermont facility to have all staff and inmates tested for novel coronavirus under the state’s COVID-19 mitigation strategy for Vermont’s six prisons.

“We cannot overstate the hard work and personal sacrifices made by staff and inmates alike during the pandemic. Their cooperation and dedication to health and safety, both inside our facilities and in the community, is the reason we’re seeing such heartening results,” said Interim Commissioner James Baker. “Superintendent Greg Hale and NSCF staff oversee the second-largest inmate population in Vermont, and have my thanks for staying vigilant in the face of this virus.”

Mass testing has now been conducted on all staff and inmates at Northwest State Correctional Facility, Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, Northeast Correctional Complex, Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility and Northern State Correctional Facility. Vermont Department of Health staff will begin testing staff and inmates at Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield next week.

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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