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For Immediate Release

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS COMPLETES INMATE COVID-19 RETESTING IN ST. ALBANS

Waterbury, Vt., May 1, 2020 – The Vermont Department of Corrections has completed its second round of mass testing of inmates and staff at Northwest State Correctional Facility (NWSCF) in St. Albans. Of the 155 inmates tested, seven inmates tested positive for COVID-19. Test results are pending on 154 staff members.

“The inmates who tested positive were already in a quarantined unit thanks to the hard work of our contact tracing team working with the Vermont Department of Health, who determined they may have interacted with a positive inmate from our first round of testing,” said Interim Commissioner Jim Baker. “This is a challenging situation for the officers and inmates at all of our facilities who are being asked to make extraordinary sacrifices to keep the community safe, and they have my full gratitude and support.”

The seven new positive inmates have been transferred to the department’s surge facility at the Northeast Correctional Complex (NECC) in St. Johnsbury, bringing the total number of COVID-positive inmates at NECC to 25.

The first round of mass testing at NWSCF was conducted on April 8 after an inmate tested positive. Those tests resulted in 38 total positive inmates and 17 positive staff. Sixteen of the 38 positive inmates have recovered and are being returned to NWSCF on Friday. Nineteen inmates from that first round are still recovering and will remain at NECC pending two consecutive negative tests. Three inmates have been released.

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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