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John E. Polk Correctional Facility Enacting Measures to Minimize Exposure in New COVID-19 Cases

Seminole Co. Fla., (August 19, 2020) – The John E. Polk Correctional Facility in Sanford is implementing additional procedures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 after experiencing an increase in positive cases.

Recently, a staff member at the JEPCF reported not feeling well, later testing positive for the virus. Out of an abundance of caution, the JEPCF staff tested all 45 inmates in the pod where the staff member worked. Of the 45 tests, 42 results have been returned positive. The majority of the inmates testing positive are asymptomatic. Additionally, correction staff has locked down a second housing unit due to an inmate not feeling well, who has also tested positive. Inmates in this second unit are currently undergoing testing.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the JEPCF has implanted successful quarantine and testing processes at the correctional facility to mitigate risk and exposure until this recent increase in cases. Procedures now include 24-hour cleaning staff, issuance of two masks to all inmates, and further collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County for increased testing and health protocols. Additionally, any new inmate refusing to take a COVID-19 test gets placed in isolation for up to 14 days while being medically monitored. Inmate movement inside the facility is being kept to a minimum at this time. Court appearances will continue to be held virtually, and inmates are not being transported to the courthouse for any reason at this time.

JEPCF staff is moving swiftly to continue to isolate inmates and staff as needed and while adhering to CDC guidelines.

All JEPCF staff members who had contact with the employee are also quarantined at home until they test negative.

The outcome of the second pod undergoing testing will be provided when available.

Please do not respond back to this email as the account is not monitored. For more information contact:

PIO Bob Kealing (bkealing@seminolesheriff.org)

(407) 665-6950

(407) 473-4698