



# Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2020

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## UPDATE: MASS TESTING FOR COVID-19 AT WAUPUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

As of May 7, 2020 the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in collaboration with the Department of Health Services made the decision to expand testing more broadly, and test staff and persons in our care throughout all of our institutions. With assistance from the National Guard, testing has been completed at several institutions, with additional sites being identified each week. In addition to the mass testing that is underway, testing has occurred and continues to occur for all persons in our care displaying symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 virus. Increased testing through mass testing now enables us to additionally identify asymptomatic carriers, which is crucial to reducing spread.

To date, 7,050 persons in our care have been tested for COVID-19 by the Wisconsin National Guard as part of our expansive testing initiative. Most of the test results have been received, with 217 of the total tests confirmed as positive, including 184 additional positive cases confirmed today from Waupun Correctional Institution. Testing at Waupun Correctional Institution (WCI) was completed this week for all staff and persons in our care at the facility. More than 1500 individuals, both staff and persons in our care, were tested with 1181 of those tests being persons in our care. As of today, May 29, 2020, we have received the results of approximately half of the tests at WCI for persons in our care, and continue to receive additional results for both persons in our care and staff. These results further support the decision to conduct mass testing, as the majority of these individuals were asymptomatic. While the increase in testing may increase the number of confirmed positive cases within our agency, just as it does in the community, it now enables us to identify those asymptomatic carriers and properly isolate those individuals, which is crucial to reducing spread.

All institutions continue to follow their emergency preparedness plans using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the basis for incident management. As we see an increase in positive cases at WCI, the site will now move into the next phase of its response to mitigate the threat of further spread. During this phase, the Department will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Persons in our care with positive test results will be medically isolated and separated from the general population, where they will be monitored closely by our

team of healthcare professionals. All staff at WCI are required to wear face masks, and all persons in our care and staff are provided with the necessary PPE at all times, such as N-95 masks, when appropriate.

We will continue monitoring the situation, and once we as we receive additional testing numbers from the National Guard we will update the numbers on our public website on the testing dashboard: [doc.wi.gov/TestingDashboard](https://doc.wi.gov/TestingDashboard)