



## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COVID-19 Cases on the Rise in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center**

**(CHARLOTTE, NC)**-The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, much like the general population, is seeing an increase of COVID-19 cases inside Mecklenburg County Detention Center-Central (MCDCC). Since the beginning of the pandemic, MCSO has worked diligently to develop and implement protocols aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus at the detention center.

As the Delta variant rapidly spreads and coronavirus cases continue to climb in the community, MCSO has seen an uptick of cases in recent weeks inside our detention facility. There are currently 61 residents in custody that have tested positive for COVID-19 at MCDCC. Eleven housing units have been designated for Respiratory Isolation and one housing unit has been designated for Respiratory Quarantine. Residents in Respiratory Isolation (positive, symptomatic, or deemed by medical providers to have experienced a significant risk of exposure) and Respiratory Quarantine (with a known, but less significant exposure) are kept separate and apart from all others to mitigate potential spread among approximately 1,530 total residents in custody at MCDCC at this time.

All persons coming into MCDCC are screened for symptoms, issued a face covering, offered a COVID-19 vaccine if he or she is not fully vaccinated and placed in a quarantine/isolation housing unit for 14 days where they are monitored for symptoms. There have been some concerns regarding sleeping arrangements for residents in these particular housing units. All residents in a quarantine/isolation housing unit sleep on a mattress with a base.

Only one resident has been transferred to the hospital due to COVID-19 and that particular transfer was a member of our older resident population who also has pre-existing conditions. There have been no COVID-19 related deaths at MCDCC.

All staff members (as well as visitors) are required to wear a face covering/mask and are screened for fever, other symptoms, and potential exposures prior to being allowed to enter MCDCC. Fully vaccinated staff members have been issued wristbands indicating their vaccination status. Staff members are encouraged but not required to be vaccinated. There are currently 34 MCSO staff members out of work and in quarantine having tested positive for COVID-19.

“We remain confident in the protocols our staff and contract medical providers have implemented to manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities,” said Sheriff Garry McFadden. “As cases continue to increase in the community we encourage everyone to get vaccinated and will continue to educate and offer the COVID-19 vaccine to our resident population.”

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