

## Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** August 7, 2020

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

(CHARLOTTE, NC) - The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office after implementing mass testing of the resident population in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center (MCDC) is pleased to report that the number of active positive cases of COVID-19 has sharply decreased in the detention center and is currently at three. MCSO in consultation with our contracted healthcare provider (Wellpath) and Mecklenburg County Public Health anticipated a short-term increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases as a result of the mass testing in quarantine/isolation housing units. We discovered during mass testing that most of those tested have shown mild symptoms and others have shown no symptoms at all. To date, we have not experienced any hospitalizations or deaths related to COVID-19 at the MCDC.

The protocols implemented have proven to be very effective and from early March until June 10<sup>th</sup> there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Mecklenburg County Detention Center. MCSO continues to be proactive in our approach and response to this pandemic to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the detention center. From the onset of the pandemic, MCSO has worked diligently to develop and implement protocols aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus in the detention center. The effectiveness of our protocols is constantly evaluated to ensure alignment with the evolving science and best practices for combatting the virus to keep our residents and staff safe.

Regarding detention personnel, there are currently 14 active positive COVID-19 cases. Adhering to the Phase 2 extension by Governor Roy Cooper, we want to ensure that our facility is still a healthy and safe environment for patrons, employees, and residents. With the cooperation of everyone continuing to practice social distancing, wearing masks, and following CDC guidelines we are confident that cases will steadily decrease.