



Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Responds to Misinformation on Social Media

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – Sheriff McFadden is concerned about misleading information on social media. In conjunction with his staff, he assures that he is doing everything possible to keep your family and friends safe who are housed in the Mecklenburg County Detention facilities.

Reports of late meals are inaccurate. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, protocols were established to keep all residents safe inside each of our facilities. Daily hot meal service continues three times a day. The primary change requires that residents now eat their meals inside of their individual cells as opposed to eating in the common area to ensure safe social distancing.

Medication continues to be delivered to the residents in their specific housing unit as it has been since the beginning of the pandemic. Medication passes are conducted four times daily to residents in the housing units. All emergent, mental health, chronic care, and sick calls are conducted by the medical providers in the housing unit to limit the movement of residents. Wellpath, our medical provider, has also been providing masks to all residents to wear when outside of cells.

In addition, we have made various modifications to our recreational schedule to ensure that all residents are being provided with adequate time to make phone calls, conduct visits, submit commissary orders, enter sick call requests, and watch television. For recreation, each pod is currently on a rotational schedule with half of the residents being allowed outside cells at one time. The number allowed in the recreational area is limited to four at a time to ensure social distancing. In-person visits were discontinued at the onset of this pandemic; however, two free weekly ten-minute visits were implemented per resident. Attorney visits continue onsite as well.

Sheriff McFadden's priority since the beginning of this pandemic has been to mitigate the introduction of COVID-19 into our detention facilities. In light of asymptomatic cases on the rise, MCSO has decided to conduct mass testing in our quarantine/isolation housing units and, as a result, we recently experienced several residents testing positive, which in turn requires swift and immediate action. The measures implemented to limit the number of residents in the common area of a housing unit are intended to reduce the spread of the virus. Sheriff McFadden states, "I will do whatever is necessary to eradicate this virus from spreading to more residents or staff. Fear mongering using social media only serves to spread false information which is counter to everything I am committed to doing for the residents I am responsible for safeguarding."