



Roanoke Sheriff's Office



Press Release

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On August 13, 2020, the Roanoke Sheriff's Office released a notification that along with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and Naphcare, there would be widespread COVID-19 testing of all inmates, staff and vendors. Since testing concluded on August 20, 2020 there have been 205 employees, vendors or contractors that tested for COVID-19. Out of the 205, 2 tested positive for COVID-19 . Note there are still 8 employees that have not been tested due to varying issues. Testing for those employees will be at a different time, off-site, and the results, if positive will be released. As of August 27, 2020, the current count for COVID-19 employees is 16. This number includes the 14 previous positive employees mentioned in the earlier press release. There will be no identifying factors, specifics of medical conditions or where the employees are assigned within the Sheriff's Office released. Currently there are still no hospitalizations due to COVID-19 among staff or inmates. There have also been no additional inmates tested or test positive for COVID-19.

Regarding the press release dated August 13, 2020, the Sheriff's Office outlined the safety precautions taken since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. To clarify, the weekender program, delayed confinement and court-order workforce had previously been suspended. Starting July 6, 2020, the weekender program was reinstated, as well as delayed confinement and court-order workforce on July 11, 2020. Also, three more inmates were identified and approved for early release as of August 21, 2020.

Sheriff Allen and his administration team want to thank the staff, medical team, inmates and community for their support and patience through this uncharacteristic time. Navigating a medical pandemic in a shared housing facility is challenging, however, the teamwork demonstrated throughout these past few months highlights the exceptional performance of our staff. While the department wishes that COVID-19 had not presented within the Roanoke City Jail, the numbers are relatively low given the limitations of a correctional facility. As of now,

the Roanoke Sheriff's Office will continue to follow the guidance of VDH regarding further testing and best practices in managing COVID-19 within the facility.

For COVID-19 specific questions regarding the Roanoke City Jail, you may call (540) 853-1761 Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm. There is also a form under the COVID-19 informational tab on www.roanokeva.gov/sheriff to submit questions.

