



Nevada Department of Corrections

Public Information Office: 775-887-3309
PIO Scott Kelley Cell: 775-350-0037

Press Release

For Immediate Release:
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Nevada Offenders at Private Facility in Arizona Test Positive for COVID-19

The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) reports that after testing all 99 Nevada offenders who are currently housed at a privately-run facility in Arizona, 69 tested positive for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

These offenders are housed at Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, AZ. The facility is run by CoreCivic, a for-profit correctional corporation that houses federal, state, county and municipal inmates and detainees.

“CoreCivic is working with NDOC medical and programming staff to monitor, assess, and treat Nevada offenders in their custody,” said Charles Daniels, NDOC Director. “Their plans now align with our security and medical-related protocols and procedures.”

NDOC provided test kits to Saguaro staff who tested Nevada offenders on July 8, with the results coming back on July 14 and 15.



Photo by Cory Lum / Civil Beat

“At the time of testing, none of the offenders exhibited any symptoms of COVID-19 and they currently remain asymptomatic,” said Dr. Michael Minev, NDOC’s Medical Director. “No offenders have required hospitalization since testing positive for COVID-19. They are

The Nevada Department of Corrections is committed to building a safer community by striving to incorporate progressive best practices in all aspects of corrections. NDOC houses more than 12,000 persons with felony convictions in 18 facilities statewide. For more information visit www.doc.nv.gov.

housed together in the same unit, with offenders who tested positive in separate cells than those who tested negative. The Nevada offenders do not have any contact with offenders from other states. They will remain under medical observation twice-daily.”

The offenders will be tested by Saguaro staff for COVID-19 every 21 days until all test negative for the virus. The next test is scheduled for July 28 and will consist of kits provided by NDOC.

NDOC recently partnered with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory on a comprehensive plan that tested offenders at all of its facilities in Nevada. Approximately 12,368 offenders, which represents 99.9% of NDOC’s total population – were tested for COVID-19, with only 18 – or .145% testing positive for the virus, one of the lowest rates in the nation.

The offenders at Saguaro represent the final major group of Nevada offenders to be tested as part of this initiative.

As COVID-19 represents an ever-changing custody and medical challenge, NDOC will continue to work closely with CoreCivic to ensure the health and safety of its offenders. NDOC's contract with CoreCivic began on October 11, 2017 and will end on June 30, 2021.

NDOC COVID-19 updates can be found at www.doc.nv.gov/About/Press_Release/covid19_updates.

More information about Nevada’s COVID-19 response can be found at www.nvhealthresponse.nv.gov.

More information about CoreCivic and Saguaro Correctional Center can be found at www.corecivic.com/facilities/saguaro-correctional-center.

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