

# Lake County Sheriff's Office

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**John D. Idleburg**  
Sheriff

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Lake County Jail Closely Monitoring COVID-19 Outbreak

The Lake County Jail is monitoring a COVID-19 outbreak in a jail inmate POD.

On April 30, 2021, an inmate in POD 4-North showed symptoms of COVID-19. A rapid test was conducted, and the inmate tested positive. The inmate was subsequently moved to the jail's medical POD. That same day, a newly remanded inmate tested positive upon their arrival at the jail. That inmate was also moved to the jail's medical POD.

On May 2, 2021, another inmate in POD 4-North tested positive, that inmate was moved to the jail's medical POD.

On May 4, 2021, all of the inmates in POD 4-North were tested. Two more POD-4 North inmates tested positive and were moved to a quarantine area in POD 4-North.

On May 6, 2021, the results were received from the remaining 42 inmates tested in POD 4-North. This revealed an additional six inmates were positive. Those six inmates were non-symptomatic. They were moved to the quarantine area in POD 4-North.

All of the inmates who have tested positive are either non-symptomatic or are experiencing mild symptoms.

All of the inmates housed in POD 4-North will be tested again in the upcoming days. POD 4-North is currently in "quarantine status," which means there will be no internal or external movement of inmates to or from POD 4-North.

All inmates housed in the jail have been provided opportunities to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. To date, 78 inmates have consented and have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

The current jail population is 434 inmates.

A number of protocols have been in effect to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 entering the jail, as well as enhanced mitigation procedures should inmates feel ill. These include:

- Enhanced medical screening for inmates and employees entering the jail
  - All newly remanded inmates are COVID-19 rapid tested upon entry into the jail
  - Inmates are then placed in a ten-day hold
  - After the ten-day hold, inmates are COVID-19 rapid tested again, before being moved to general population
  - All newly remanded inmates are provided an opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine
- All jail inmates are provided ongoing opportunities to receive a COVID-19 vaccine
- Increased cleanings of jail pods
- Minimization of inmates moving from pod to pod
- Established a medical segregation area for inmates with mild illness symptoms
- Worked with Courts & criminal justice partners to establish electronic bond hearings, versus in-person hearings
  - Inmates who receive a recognizance bond at their initial hearing never enter the jail's general population area
- Utilizing PPEs for all jail staff
- All inmates wear facemasks when outside of their cell for any reason
- Utilize vacant housing pods to spread the distance between inmates
- Inmates are required to eat in their cell, rather than a group setting
- Inmates are allowed to have their cell doors open during socialization times, but congregated together in common areas are not allowed
- Regular COVID-19 testing of jail inmates and jail employees

The Lake County Jail collaborates closely with the Lake County Health Department and follows the health department's best-practice guidance for mitigation procedures. The Lake County Jail conducts regular COVID-19 tests on inmates, correctional employees, and correctional contractors. Over the past year, nearly 3,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted on inmates, staff, and contractors.

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