

BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release: December 11, 2025

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Joint Statements from the Broome County Sheriff's Office and the Broome

County Health Department

Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar said, "All incarcerated individuals and detainees entering the Broome County Correctional Facility are given a full health screening, which includes various tests, including testing for tuberculosis (TB). Those individuals are quarantined until test results come back, per state guidelines and facility policy. Over the past three years, no incarcerated individual or detainee has tested positive for TB.

To date, The Broome County Health Department reports that there are no confirmed cases of TB for anyone currently in custody of the Broome County Sheriff's Office or in the Correctional Facility. One incarcerated individual who began to show respiratory disease-like symptoms was transported to a local hospital earlier this week and is undergoing testing and treatment under the supervision of Broome County Health Department.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Broome County Correctional Facility has been working closely with the Broome County Health Department and following all established guidelines and precautions to safeguard the health and safety of our incarcerated population, our corrections officers and members of the public.

The Broome County Health Department reports no confirmed cases of tuberculosis as of today (December 11, 2025), and should that ever change, we defer to the Health Department in accordance with HIPAA law on releasing that information.

My thanks goes out to our community members for their patience as we take these precautions and to our Corrections Officers and medical staff for their unwavering dedication to the health and safety of all those living and working in the Correctional Facility."

Olivia Catalano, Director of Public Health, Broome County Public Health, said, "Don't panic, Respiratory illness exist within our community all year long. We encourage the community to wash your hands, stay home if sick or wear a mask if you have repiratory

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symptoms. Illnesses are currently in our community like flu, COVID-19, and RSV which spread easily. See your healthcare provider if you have any respiratory symptoms.

We work with our community to ensure quality care is given to everyone, following state and federal guidelines. HIPAA, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, is a Federal guideline which gives us privacy rules, setting national standards to protect patient health information. This helps keep patient health information secure, mandating safeguard for providers, insurers and related entities. We keep all information secure following these guidelines within our community."

Dr. Lazarus Gehring, MD Medical Director, Broome County Public Health, said, "TB is an extremely slow growing bacterium. Just because you are exposed to someone with TB does not mean you will get it. If you know you were exposed to someone who is TB positive, you can contact our health department. We will provide you step by step what needs to be done, testing access and education.

We have an excellent team here at the health department and within our local healthcare community. We work together to address TB concerns as they come up in our community and provide treatment to all people."

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