



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Broome County Sheriff's Office and the Broome County Health Department Provide Update on Health Precautions Taken at Correctional Facility

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) The Broome County Sheriff's Office and the Broome County Health Department provided the public with an update on the precautions being taken at the Broome County Correctional Facility following the recent hospitalization of an incarcerated person who displayed signs of respiratory disease.

On Thursday, December 4, 2025, an incarcerated individual was seen by Correctional Facility medical staff for gastrointestinal issues. During the course of the examination, medical staff detected potential respiratory issues, leading to the individual's hospitalization to undergo testing and treatment under the supervision of the Broome County Health Department.

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.

The hospitalized individual tested negative for TB during these intake procedures and again in a follow-up blood test while displaying no symptoms of active tuberculosis while in custody.

Precautionary Measures Taken

Although no confirmation of tuberculosis in hospitalized individual had been established, the Broome County Correctional Facility and the Broome County Health Department moved quickly on preventative measures out of an abundance of caution, working together and following all established guidelines and precautions to safeguard the health and safety of the incarcerated population, corrections officers and members of the public.

These precautions included TB testing for all incarcerated individuals and staff who may have come into contact with the hospitalized incarcerated individual. Following a full slate of blood

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tests for TB, results showed zero instances of active TB disease, but multiple instances of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), which shows no symptoms and cannot be spread to other people.

“It's important to know that not everyone who is exposed to TB will get sick, similar to other respiratory illness,” said Olivia Catalano, Director of Public health.

TB Disease vs. Latent TB (LTBI)

Dr. Lazarus Gehring, Medical Director at Broome County Public Health wants the community to understand TB. Active TB Disease occurs when the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* overcomes the immune system and multiplies. Persons who have TB disease are usually infectious, symptomatic and may spread the bacteria to other people.

A person with latent TB infection have TB bacteria in their bodies, but do not have symptoms of TB disease and cannot spread the infection to other people.

“We have an excellent team here doing the work, ensuring access to treatment for active and latent TB. It’s important to remember folks with latent TB cannot spread the infection,” said Dr. Gehring.

The Broome County Health Department reports multiple active tuberculosis cases in Broome County residents, and over 50 individuals in Broome County currently being treated for latent tuberculosis infection.

Untreated LTBI accounts for approximately 80% of all TB cases in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which reports that treatment for LTBI is highly effective, preventing up to 90% of all active TB cases.

Moving Forward

All individuals shown to have LTBI will be given full treatment under supervision of the Department of Health and the Correctional Facility medical services provider to ensure the presence of LTBI never becomes transmissible within the Correctional Facility or out in the community.

Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar said, “My thanks go out to our medical staff for detecting a potential issue and taking the appropriate steps to address it, to our Broome County Health Department for their swift action and dedication to protecting the health and safety of our incarcerated population, and to our Correctional Facility staff for their diligence and teamwork during this process. Due to the nature of the job, our Correctional Facility staff encounter a wide variety of medical, substance abuse and mental health issues while serving and protecting our community, but the entire team has once again risen to the occasion and taken all the appropriate measures and precautions to keep people safe.”

“Our health department is crucial to help control Tuberculosis,” said Director Catalano. “We do testing, treatment and care coordination for anyone in our community who needs it. TB is treatable and more common in our community than you may think. Our team works hard to ensure each person’s needs are met, the patient is monitored during treatment and complete it. Winter months come with cold and flu season, continue to practice good hand hygiene, avoid others if you are sick and visit your healthcare provider if you have concerns about your health.”

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