



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Testing from "Stomach Bug" Cases in Broome County Correctional Facility Confirms Cause to be Salmonella Infection

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) Testing from the recent stomach bug-like illnesses in the Broome County Correctional Facility has confirmed, through multiple test results, that the cause was Salmonella infection, according to health experts at the Broome County Health Department.

On Monday, May 25, 2026, incarcerated individuals began reporting symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and headaches to medical staff at Correctional Facility. Over the next two days, over 300 individuals reported similar symptoms.

While the initial symptoms and scope led health officials to suspect norovirus, testing results returned on Wednesday have confirmed a second possibility - that the illness stems from a foodborne bacterial Salmonella infection. Health Department-directed treatment for the illness remains largely the same as when the illness was suspected to be norovirus, focusing on replacing lost fluids to prevent dehydration.

Correctional Facility medical and housing staff, working with staff and officials from the Broome County Department of Health and Broome County Office of Emergency Services, are actively treating and assisting those experiencing symptoms, preventing dehydration via steady fluid, water and hydration drink intake. High-risk patients, including immunocompromised or older individuals, will also be receiving antibiotics as needed under the direction of the Department of Health and the facility medical provider.

Salmonella are bacteria that cause an estimated 1.35 million infections in the United States each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A standard Salmonella infection typically lasts 4 to 7 days. The foodborne illness usually stems from contaminated foods, often including beef, poultry, seafood, milk or eggs, but unwashed fruits and vegetables can also become contaminated.

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Finding the Source of the Infection

The Broome County Correctional Facility has been working with both the Broome County Health Department, the New York State Department of Health and the food service provider Trinity Services Group, to investigate and test all possible contamination sources.

A full correctional facility kitchen inspection was conducted by the Broome County Department of Health on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 in response to the illnesses and complaints. The inspection found no major violations within the facilities, equipment or food preparation areas.

As standard policy, a sample of all meals served at the Correctional Facility is wrapped, refrigerated and stored for 5 days in case of possible contamination. Meals from the days prior to the initial reports of illness are currently undergoing testing to help identify the source.

Out of an abundance of caution, food supplies on site used prior to the illness are being held for testing before disposal. All food currently being served at the Correctional Facility arrived and has been prepared after the initial illness was reported and identified. The facility is also undergoing a deep and steady cleaning on any exposed surfaces or areas within the jail.

The Broome County Health Department will also be conducting surveys of all incarcerated individuals to help determine exposure and contact with Salmonella.

“Now that our PCR tests have confirmed Salmonella, we’re confident with our course of treatment for all individuals experiencing these symptoms,” said Olivia Catalano Director of Public Health at the Broome County Health Department. “Now we’re making every effort to find the cause of the bacteria and manage the situation in a coordinated effort with our agency partners.”

Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar said, “Our focus remains on the health and safety of all those living and working within the Broome County Correctional Facility,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “We are taking every precaution to ensure the quality and safety of the food served at the facility, to treat those experiencing symptoms and to identify when and where this contamination entered our facility. My thanks go out to our medical staff, the Broome County Health Department and our partners at Office of Emergency Services for their swift action, dedication and teamwork during this process.”

The Broome County Correctional Facility will provide further updates on the number of confirmed cases as well as the number of individuals experiencing symptoms over the next several days.

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