



Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Winnebago County Corrections Officer Tests Positive for COVID-19

WINNEBAGO COUNTY – Winnebago County Sheriff Gary Caruana announced Friday that a corrections officer with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The individual works at the Winnebago County Jail, and has been on an unrelated leave of absence since March 5, 2020 with no contact with inmates or staff at the jail. The Sheriff's Office was notified that the officer became ill and tested positive for COVID-19 this week. The officer is currently at home in isolation and is not scheduled to return to duty until cleared by medical staff.

Following guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), additional actions are being taken to monitor and protect the health and safety of inmates and the Winnebago County Justice Center and jail staff. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and University of Illinois College of Medicine Correctional Health Care Services are working closely to monitor and screen officers for symptoms when they report to work. Visitor restrictions have also been in place at the jail for several weeks and will continue to be enforced to limit the spread of the virus.

"The Sheriff and his team continue to proactively work to keep inmates, corrections officers, deputies, and 911 staff safe. Similar to the leadership team at our River Bluff Nursing Home, they are following CDC and IDPH guidelines at each and every turn. We wish this employee a quick and full recovery," said Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Haney.

No additional details will be released at this time.

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