

**COVID-19 Update from Hampshire Sheriff Patrick J. Cahillane**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**First Positive in 575 Days**

As of 1 pm on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, there is one case of Covid-19 inside the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction, our first positive in 575 days.

On Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, an unvaccinated pre-trial detainee began exhibiting symptoms and was immediately placed in quarantine and subsequently tested positive for Covid. Our medical team moved quickly to test everyone housed in the same unit as the positive individual. All of those tests have come back negative. The Covid-positive individual remains in quarantine at our facility and is being closely monitored by our medical staff.

I want to reiterate the importance of vaccinations and maintaining vigilance, especially as new variants add an extra layer of uncertainty. We have achieved a vaccination rate of more than 75 percent, with the goal of a 100 percent vaccination rate for everyone under our roof, and there is no doubt that vaccinations, along with the other preventative measures that are now part of our routines, helped limit this particular outbreak to one individual so far. There is also no doubt that the quick and decisive action taken by our medical and security teams played a hugely significant role in preserving the overall health and safety of the men in our care, and the communities we serve. As always, I am eternally grateful for the staff at the HSO and their continued dedication to duty.

If you are unvaccinated, I implore you to consult your health care provider and get vaccinated as soon as possible. If you are vaccinated, and eligible for a booster shot, please don't hesitate to get that extra shot.

When we are all protected together, we can all return to normal sooner.

Patrick J. Cahillane  
Sheriff, Hampshire County