

COVID-19 Update from Hampshire Sheriff Patrick J. Cahillane

May 28th, 2021

Staying Prepared

As of 10 am on Friday, May 28th, there are no cases of Covid-19 inside the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction.

We are phasing out our use of the two-dose Moderna vaccine and have begun using the single-dose Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine. So far, our medical team has administered 443 doses since vaccinations began at the HSO on January 7th – 438 of the Moderna vaccine and 5 of the Janssen – representing roughly 71 percent of our staff and 74 percent of our population now being fully vaccinated. No serious side effects have been reported. Vaccinations will continue as more of the people under our roof volunteer to receive it.

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On an afternoon in mid May, one of our officers, on his way home from his shift, heard a call on his radio: an unresponsive male, possible overdose.

Guided by his training, his education, and his commitment to duty, he checked his utility vest, found a supply of Narcan, and headed for the scene. With the help of local police, our officer was able to administer the Narcan and had the individual breathing again as paramedics arrived.

The preparedness of our staff is essential for our success, and education and training are essential for our overall preparedness. Preparedness, training and education, as well as a

guiding spirit of community service, were all on display in the off-duty actions of our officer on that particular day. And they are in practice by all of our staff at the HSO, all day every day.

There is no better illustration of this than our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. By repurposing our existing Disorder Management Plans, and constantly educating ourselves about Covid-19, and following the guidance of state and federal public health officials, we have been able to adapt our operations and help keep people safe.

Now that our communities are beginning to open back up, the staff of the HSO will continue to be vigilant in our work and in our personal lives.

We train and educate our staff to be prepared for worst-case scenarios, to analyze how such scenarios might be avoided, and to bring fresh perspectives, not just to the big challenges posed by an historic pandemic, but also to the smaller challenges that define our daily routines. Our goal, as always, is to protect and improve the health and safety of the people in our care, and in the communities we serve.

The HSO family wishes your family a happy and safe Memorial Day. I wish special blessings to those who lost a loved one in war. Let us all understand the significance of Memorial Day by honoring those who sacrificed their lives performing military duties in service to us all. May we all unite to preserve the peace won by their sacrifice.

Patrick J. Cahillane
Sheriff, Hampshire County