

April 13, 2020 (Savannah, Georgia) Sheriff John T. Wilcher has issued the following statement:

The Chatham County Sheriff's office has a second confirmed case of an inmate with COVID-19. The inmate is isolated with 24-hour medical care. This inmate was quarantined due to possible exposure when the first inmate case of COVID-19 was suspected. If an Inmate is suspected of COVID-19 exposure, they are isolated, have their temperature checked twice per day in the infirmary and are monitored for symptoms.

All inmates have immediate access to our 24-hour medical staff and facilities within the jail and the \$5 co-pay has been waived. We continuously monitor the health of the inmates and staff. If an inmate notifies an officer of any health or medical need, a member of the medical staff is immediately notified. We have an Infectious Disease Control & Prevention nurse on staff. Each inmate has access to anti-bacterial soap and is required to follow the Center for Disease Control recommended guidelines for personal hygiene.

The company that manages the communications services for inmates is providing time for inmates to speak to their friends, family and loved ones free of charge. We encourage the use of these services during the time our Visitors Center is closed.

When an inmate is processed into the Chatham County Jail, a nurse conducts a health screen. When an inmate is discharged from our jail, they receive a health screen, information and access to resources regarding COVID-19. The Chatham County judicial system, the District Attorney's Office and attorneys are working to decrease our nonviolent inmate population through the appropriate processing procedures. We receive court orders dictating which inmates are discharged. Inmates are not being transported outside of the jail for court. Legal matters and proceedings are done via phone and/or video. Our current inmate population is approximately 1220. If you have a family member or loved one housed at the Chatham County Detention Center and would like to know their legal status regarding a potential release, contact their attorney

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office is working with the Center for Disease control, the GA Department of Health, the GA Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and Homeland Security.

My priority as Sheriff of Chatham County is the safety of everyone at the Sheriff's Office and the Detention Center, to include my officers, staff, detainees and our community. We will continue to keep you informed with regular updates, follow us using #CCSOHealth, www.chathamsheriff.org and as always, you can call us at 912-652-7609

Please follow the Center for Disease Control's information at www.cdc.gov