



# BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release:

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## BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

### Broome County Sheriff's Office and Broome County Health Department Investigating Possible Norovirus Cases at Broome County Correctional Facility

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) The Broome County Sheriff's Office and the Broome County Health Department are taking action to treat and prevent the spread of a stomach bug-like illness that health experts believe to be norovirus at the Broome County Correctional Facility.

On Monday, May 25, 2026, several incarcerated individuals reported symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and headaches to medical staff at Correctional Facility. Over the next 24 hours, over 140 incarcerated individuals in multiple housing units were seen by medical staff for similar symptoms.

While testing is ongoing, officials from the Broome County Department of Health believe the illness is due to norovirus, a highly contagious stomach illness effecting 19 to 21 million people in the United States each year and the leading cause of acute gastroenteritis in the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most reported cases are resolved within 1-3 days, and typical treatment focuses on replacing lost fluids to prevent dehydration.

Correctional Facility medical and housing staff, working with Broome County Department of Health Officials, are actively treating and assisting those experiencing symptoms, preventing dehydration via steady fluid, water and hydration drink intake.

The Correctional Facility is also taking additional precautions to limit exposure for staff and other incarcerated individuals within the facility, while performing deep and steady cleaning on any exposed surfaces or areas within the facility.

“Broome County Health Department has investigated norovirus before,” said Director of Public health Olivia Catalano. “Based on symptoms and how quickly this illness is spreading, we suspect norovirus, though we are waiting on test results to confirm the cause. If this is norovirus, the virus is typically manageable.”

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“Because this is a virus and not a bacterial illness, antibiotics would not be an effective course of treatment,” Catalano added. “For treatment the goal is to prevent dehydration, replacing fluids which can be lost through sickness. Drinking fluids, rest, eating bland foods and using over the counter medications help those who are ill to recover. Taking anti-diarrheal medication and anti-nauseas medication can help with symptoms management. Norovirus cause severe dehydration. Typically, symptoms will go away within 1-3 days, but if someone has diarrhea lasting more than 7 days or vomiting more than 48 hours, they should be seen by a medical provider.”

“The virus sheds before and after illness, during this stage people are contagious to others,” Catalano continued. “Norovirus prevention methods include washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before and after eating or using the bathroom. Hand sanitizer is not as effective for this. Cleaning surfaces with a bleach-based solution that are frequently touches like doorknobs, toilets, and cleaning area also helps to prevent illness. Following these precautions when preparing food or taking care of laundry will help avoid further illness. Keeping apart from others until symptoms have completely stopped help stop the further spread of infection. Our health department will continue to work with the Sheriff’s Office caring for all those impacted.”

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. “My thanks go out to our medical staff and our Broome County Health Department for their swift action, dedication and teamwork during this process. While this may be a relatively common illness, we are investigating all possible sources of this infection and taking every precaution to help treat it and prevent its spread.”

The Broome County Sheriff’s Office 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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