



State of Utah

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# Utah Department of Corrections

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### **First COVID-19 Case Confirmed at a Utah Corrections Community Correctional Center**

The Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) has confirmed its first positive case of COVID-19 within one of its community correctional centers on April 3, 2020.

UDC will not be releasing the name of the offender or their housing location.

The offender, who has not been in a state prison since late 2019, is male and between the ages of 45 to 64, and is in stable condition and has been isolated.

Community Correctional Centers serve as halfway houses to help offenders who may not have a place to go when they leave prison, need additional treatment as they transition back into the community or are struggling and at risk of returning to jail or prison—but pose no direct public safety risk.

"During this difficult time for the country, there are many people who put their lives on the line to keep people safe and keep people healthy," said Mike Haddon, executive director of the Utah Department of Corrections. "Our staff are no different, and our team of dedicated professionals are working hard to keep those we supervise safe and healthy."

UDC is working in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state and local health departments to ensure that all containment steps are taken, which include but are not limited to isolating the infected offender who will receive frequent health checks; coordinating with public health officials on quarantine procedures and contact tracing; and ensuring that proper cleaning and contact protocols are implemented.

Community correctional centers do not have active medical care providers, but UDC staff are in contact with state and local health departments, and UDC medical staff, and will continue to monitor the offender, and recommend offsite care if needed.

Offenders housed within a community correctional center typically have regular access to the community, with limited security, and at this time—based on recommendations from state and local health departments—the facility will now be on quarantine for at least 14 days.

"This is an ever-evolving situation," said Dan Blanchard, Adult Probation and Parole director for UDC, "and while we are planning to place the center on quarantine at this time, we will continue to evaluate

offenders on a case-by-case basis, consult with state and local health departments, and may consider recommending to the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole for the early release of some offenders to an approved address in the future.”

UDC is dedicated to ensuring that staff, offenders, and the general public are informed of recent developments within UDC during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last couple months, the Department has proactively taken stringent steps for prevention, and toward containment. You can learn more about those efforts and updates at [corrections.utah.gov](https://corrections.utah.gov).

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#### **Utah Department of Corrections**

Mission Statement: Our dedicated team of professionals ensures public safety by effectively managing offenders while maintaining close collaboration with partner agencies and the community. Our team is devoted to providing maximum opportunities for offenders to make lasting changes through accountability, treatment, education, and positive reinforcement within a safe environment.