

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Detainee at Prison Facility in St. Thomas Tests Positive for Tuberculosis

Community Center / **Published On December 01, 2021 04:31 AM /**

Staff Consortium **December 01, 2021**



ST. THOMAS — One detainee at the Criminal Justice Center on St. Thomas (CJC) tested positive for Tuberculosis on Monday, the Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections has announced via release.

As part of BOC's medical intake and screening process, the one detainee's test returned positive and was immediately transported to Schneider Regional Medical Center for additional treatment and care, the bureau said.

Under the leadership of Dr. Linda Callwood, BOC's Medical Team began testing all inmates/detainees housed in the specific housing unit along with staff who may have

come in contact with the TB positive detainee, according to the release. At this time, no other inmate/detainee or staff tested positive for Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body, such as the kidney, spine, and brain. Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick.

"Medical screening is necessary to identify potential illnesses and to ensure that inmates/detainees with known illnesses are identified for further assessment and continued treatment," said Wynnie Testamark, BOC director.

The bureau said it has taken concrete steps to minimize medical-related risk at its facilities in accordance with CDC guidelines.

The Criminal Justice Center is still on modified lockdown with continuous disinfectant and cleaning. Inmate movement has been restricted within the facility, according to the release. All visits by vendors and all inmate transfers have been suspended until further notice. In-person visits, work details, and prisoner furloughs remain suspended, as they have been since the start of the pandemic.

Court hearings held virtually remain unaffected. Attorneys may visit with prisoners via secure video conference by contacting the facility to schedule a video visit.