

**TARRANT COUNTY**

**Office of the Sheriff**

**Bill E. Waybourn**

Press Release

04/24/2020

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Tarrant County Jail

Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office command staff and confinement team members continue to work hard to stave off the impacts that active cases of COVID-19 have on jail operations. This past week we anticipated to see a surge across the country in COVID-19 cases and we knew that an operation our size would inevitably have to respond to positive COVID-19 cases. Last week we had the first five inmates receive positive test results for COVID-19. Other inmates have been tested and thirty-six of those tests have returned positive, bringing our total number of inmates with the illness to forty-one. All inmates are in quarantine, doing well and being cared for by JPS medical staff. TCSO also had two more jail team members test positive for COVID-19 this week, bringing the total to four. They are in quarantine and doing well.

Since Tarrant County initiated protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19, there has been an abundance of caution taken in the jail facilities to prevent the spread of the illness. Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office and our JPS medical team continue to work together to insure the best steps to take with each new case. This COVID-19 pandemic is a very fluid and ever-changing battlefield. Implemented protocols include mandatory multiple daily temperature checks of food vendor employees, our employees and inmates. We continue research into who the infected inmates may have come into contact with. Masks are to be worn by anyone entering the jail facilities, including staff. Several areas within the jail will remain on quarantine status until all inmates are confirmed COVID free and to curb any additional spread of this illness.

We firmly believe that the dedication to professionalism and adherence to the directions being given to curtail the influence of an active COVID-19 case are what has kept us ahead of the curve and will ensure that we successfully conquer this pandemic. We will continue to provide verified information as soon as it is made available and properly vetted. The safety and the well-being of our team-members and the inmates we are housing will remain a top priority, and we must all work together to get through this.

[Current jail population: 3348]

Respectfully,

Lt. J. Gabbert

Lt. Jennifer Gabbert

Tarrant County Sheriff’s Office

Public Information Officer

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