

17<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

EUGENE G. DOHERTY  
CHIEF JUDGE



WINNEBAGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
400 WEST STATE STREET - ROOM 215  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FIRST COVID-19 CASE REPORTED AT WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY – The Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center is reporting its first case of COVID-19 in a minor who was recently placed in the Center.

The Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center and the University of Illinois College of Medicine Correctional Health Care Services are working closely with the Winnebago County Health Department to prevent further exposure and transmission. Following guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), additional actions are being taken to monitor and protect the health and safety of the minors and the Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center staff.

The Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center had previously instituted mitigation efforts in response to COVID-19. Medical personnel screen minors at the time of entry into the detention center and minors at the Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center with COVID-19 symptoms are placed in isolation and are tested for the virus. Positive cases are isolated from the other minors and, if symptoms warrant, will be transferred to a hospital for care. Staff are screened for symptoms when reporting to work and are provided with personal protective equipment including masks and gloves. Surfaces within detention are cleaned frequently and visitor restrictions have been in place since March 18, 2020.

“We have taken all recommended measures to guard the safety of minors placed at the juvenile detention center,” said 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Chief Judge Eugene Doherty. “We know that even the best measures cannot be 100% successful in keeping the virus out of our facilities. Juvenile crime often requires minors to be detained at our facility, so new people are added to our population every week. We remain committed to taking recommended measures to ensure the health and safety of the minors and our employees as best we can.”

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