

Kitsap County Jail officer diagnosed with COVID-19, second case connected to county campus

[Andrew Binion](#), Kitsap Sun Published 8:58 p.m. PT March 19, 2020

An officer at the Kitsap County Jail tested positive for COVID-19, the sheriff's office said Thursday, at least the second person diagnosed who is connected to the county government campus in Port Orchard.

No inmates have tested positive for the virus, said office spokesman Deputy Scott Wilson. The corrections officer was last at work Sunday. He or she is recovering at home.

Now a response team is working to document the movements and interactions of the officer to determine who they may have been in close contact with.



Kitsap County Jail (Photo: Meegan M. Reid)

Prior to the diagnosis, [jail officials and the county prosecutor lowered the jail population](#) by lodging only those accused of more serious crimes and by asking judges

to set bail only on defendants believed to pose a danger to the community. The jail has room for about 400 to 420 inmates. On Wednesday the population was 272.

The jail has also established medical isolation units for 20 inmates who show symptoms, Deputy Scott Wilson said.

Corrections officers do not work only in the jail but also lead defendants to and from superior and district court and provide courtroom security.

On Tuesday [Superior Court Judge Bill Houser](#) was diagnosed Tuesday with the virus. As a precaution, both the superior court and clerk's office closed until at least Monday.