



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

For Immediate Release:
March 3, 2021

CONTACT: Hazel Brewster
(802) 636-7047

*****PUBLIC STATEMENT*****

Statement of Lt. Governor Gray on COVID-19 Outbreak at Northern State Correctional Facility

Montpelier, Vt. — Today, Lt. Governor Molly Gray released the following statement in response to the COVID-19 outbreak at Northern State Correctional Facility:

“This month marks one year since the first COVID-19 case was identified in Vermont and emergency health measures were put in place to help save lives and prevent community spread.

I am deeply concerned to learn that 127 inmates and 10 staff at the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport have tested positive for COVID-19.

As a state, we are responsible for the health, safety and well-being of all Vermonters, including members of our community who are within the direct care, or employment of the Vermont Department of Corrections.

We have known that the current conditions of in-state and out-of-state correctional facilities as well as the current treatment of inmates accelerates COVID-19 community spread. We have also known that those who work in Vermont correctional facilities have done so at great personal risk.

The medical needs of these Vermonters must be urgently addressed along with the equal application of emergency health measures necessary to protect this and other vulnerable populations.”

###

Previously, Lt. Governor Gray served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division of the Attorney General's Office. Gray is a human rights lawyer by training and has previously worked for the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) on detention matters.