



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2013

An Outbreak of Influenza Confirmed at Kershaw CI

Columbia, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Corrections said today that several cases of influenza have been confirmed at Kershaw Correctional Institution, a Level II, medium security prison located just outside the City of Kershaw.

Prison medical officials were first alerted early Tuesday morning that a dorm at Kershaw CI had reported 15 cases of flu-like symptoms including coughs, chills, congestion and high fever among inmates. The Department of Health and Environmental Control was notified on Wednesday and dispatched an epidemiology nurse to the prison to work with SCDC medical personnel in collecting actual viral flu cultures. As a result of those tests, 36 cases of the flu, including both inmates and employees, have now been confirmed at the prison by DHEC. Testing will continue as necessary.

In order to limit possible exposure to the influenza virus, the Oak Dorm (A and B sides), Sycamore Dorm and Magnolia Dorm at Kershaw CI have been locked down and will remain on lockdown until further notice.

Due to health concerns for inmates, employees and the general public, visitation at Kershaw Correctional Institution for the weekend of September 13-15, 2013 has been cancelled.