



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2019

Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard reports that the Crow Wing County Jail is currently experiencing two separate health related-issues – Salmonella and Hepatitis A.

On October 1, 2019, the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office Jail Division was notified of a possible outbreak of a gastrointestinal illness. One inmate has tested positive for Salmonella. Other inmates and staff have also reported intestinal illness. At this time, the source of the bacteria has not been determined. The Minnesota Department of Health is on-site working with Crow Wing County Jail staff, medical services staff and food service staff to identify potential causes. While the investigation is ongoing, jail staff are suspending visiting and limiting inmate movement and interactions. A professional cleaning company has been brought in to clean and sanitize the jail.

Symptoms of salmonellosis usually begin 12 to 96 hours after being exposed to the bacteria. Symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramping and fever. Salmonella can be found in water, food, soil and surfaces that have been contaminated with feces of infected humans or animals.

On September 26, 2019, the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office Jail Division was notified that one inmate tested positive for Hepatitis A. At this time the source of the virus has not been determined. Jail medical services staff along with Crow Wing County Public Health and Guide Point Pharmacy of Brainerd have been vaccinating inmates and employees that were potentially exposed to prevent additional infections. Jail medical services staff are monitoring inmates for symptoms to identify any additional cases.

Hepatitis A is an infection of the liver caused by the Hepatitis A virus. Symptoms usually begin 2 to 7 weeks after being exposed to the virus.

The Sheriff's Office takes all health issues among staff, inmates and others very seriously. We are committed to the safety of all and are thankful to our health partners for their work on these issues.