



Officers Discover Suboxone Strips at Gouverneur Correctional Facility

Drugs Hidden Behind Postage Stamps

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Gouverneur , NY – Alert staff discovered orange film strips hidden behind postage stamps on envelopes that were mailed to inmates at the medium security correctional facility.

Between April 6 and 13, officers recovered the orange strips, that later tested positive for Suboxone, from eight envelopes mailed to inmates. The strips were discovered hidden behind the stamps. In addition, two inmates were addressed separately on multiple envelopes from different addresses.

The drugs were mailed from various locations in Upstate New York.

Staff also discovered amphetamines in two packages received in the mail room on Friday, April 24. There were five sheets of paper that had discoloration on them in one package and two sheets with discoloration on them in the second. The sheets of paper tested positive for amphetamines.

“This discovery of Suboxone strips hidden behind stamps shows you the lengths that inmates will go to get drugs into prisons. Their supply has been severely cut off with the suspension of inmate visits so they are resorting to all types of methods to get drugs in through the mail. This

is just another reason why DOCCS needs to immediately implement the Secure Vendor Program. It might not stop all contraband from coming inside facilities, but it will severely limit the ability to do so. ” – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.

An assault on staff also occurred at Gouverneur that resulted in two officers needing medical attention at an outside hospital. An inmate was being frisked before being admitted to a Special Housing Unit for disciplinary reasons on Tuesday, April 7. During the frisk, the inmate turned around and started shouting obscenities and became agitated. The officer with him grabbed him in a body hold. Two officers immediately came to assist. When they arrived, the inmate struck one of the responding officers in the mouth causing him to fall backwards and hit a radiator with the back of his head. The inmate continued to struggle before being brought to the floor where mechanical restraints were applied.

The two injured officers were taken to the hospital. The officer who was punched had bleeding from the mouth and nose, dizziness and ringing in the ears. The second officer had pain and swelling to his elbow. Both officers were treated and released and did not return to duty.

The inmate, 27, is serving a two to seven year sentence after being convicted in New York County in 2018 for Scheme to Defraud 1st, Grand Larceny 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.