

Suboxone Strips Seized at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Suspected Drugs Found in Mailed Package and on Inmate.

<u>For Immediate Release</u> February 8, 2021

Rome, NY – Suboxone strips were seized inside Mohawk Correctional Facility that were hidden inside a towel mailed to an inmate. In addition, suspected drugs were seized on an inmate at the medium security prison last week.

On Monday, February, 1, a sergeant witnessed an inmate fall out of his bed onto the floor and he appeared to be under the influence of a unknown drug. The officer searched the inmate and found a bundle wrapped in clear plastic in his pant pocket. The bundle contained paper coated in a substance believed to be Suboxone. The suspected drugs were seized as evidence. The inmate faces disciplinary charges in the incident.

On Friday, February 5, an officer processing inmate mail in the mail room noticed inconsistencies in the stitching of a towel. The stitching was opened up and the officer recovered 16 orange strips believed to be Suboxone. The suspected drugs were mailed from Elmhurst, NY.

"Once again, this is a call for the Secure Vendor Program. With the Secure Vendor Program, drugs like this wouldn't stand a chance of getting inside of our prisons. DOCCS owes it to the safety of staff to reinstate it and stop the constant attempts to smuggle drugs into our prisons." – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.