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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Statement Responding to Reports Of Positive COVID-19 Tests in New York City Jails

(NEW YORK, NY) – **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Rights Practice at The Legal Aid Society**, released the following statement in response to [reporting](#) that an incarcerated person and a correction officer in the New York City jails just tested positive for COVID-19.

“Today’s confirmed case is more reason why New Yorkers currently incarcerated in the City jails must be screened and released from custody immediately. Over the past week, we have received multiple complaints from clients concerning the lack of basic sanitation measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at local jails, and the situation will undoubtedly get worse in the coming days. Lives will be lost unless the our leaders in government act now and decisively.”

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>