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

***Legal Aid Decries COVID-19 Outbreak At Four Upstate DOCCS  
Prisons***

***Positive COVID-19 Cases Among Incarcerated New Yorkers Jumps 25  
Percent Statewide***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society decried an outbreak of COVID-19 positive cases among New Yorkers currently incarcerated at New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) facilities, including Shawangunk (Ulster Co), Wallkill (Ulster Co), Fishkill (Dutchess Co) and Green Haven (Dutchess Co), as [reported](#) in today's *New York Daily News*.

In Shawangunk alone, for example, the number of incarcerated people found to be infected with COVID-19 more than doubled (from 47 to 101 people) between the DOCCS reports of August 7, 2020 and August 8, 2020. These new results are particularly troubling because DOCCS has still tested only about 20% of the people held in its facilities, likely making the actual number of afflicted people far higher than DOCCS has yet acknowledged.

The Legal Aid Society stated - “As we have said since the beginning of this crisis, prisons and jails are breeding grounds for COVID-19, and DOCCS does not have a plan to protect the most vulnerable in its custody. This is also especially alarming because COVID-19 cases are at record lows throughout the state. We demand that Governor Cuomo and DOCCS release our most vulnerable clients immediately who are at imminent danger of contracting this virus.”

[DOCCS COVID-10 reporting for August 7, 2020.](#)

[DOCCS COVID-19 reporting for August 8 2020](#)

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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/>*