

WINNESHIEK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

305 MONTGOMERY SUITE #3 DECORAH, IOWA 52101
(563) 382-4662 (563) 387-4121
email: wcpahns@winneshiekhealth.org
website: winneshiekhealth.org

Delbert Longley
State Department of Corrections
Jesse Parker Bldg
510 E. 12th St
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Mr. Longley,

A tour of the Winneshiek County Jail was given to members of the Winneshiek County Board of Health on May 12, 2021 by Jeannie Sebastian, Jail Administrator and Sam Courtney, Assistant Jail Administrator. Members present included Kurt DeVore, Chairman; Jay Elsbernd, Vice-Chair; and Mark Vick, Supervisor. Krista Vanden Brink, Winneshiek County Public Health Administrator was also present.

A number of safety measures were put in place due to COVID-19. Inmates were quarantined for 14 days upon arrival to decrease the potential of disease transmission. Masks were worn by inmates and staff. Court and telehealth appointments have been able to be completed in-house thereby reducing the need for inmate movement and re-quarantine. Before an inmate can leave for prison, Winneshiek County Public Health conducts a PCR COVID test. A money depository system was installed so family members can add to an inmate's funds thereby reducing the need for cash transfers. Tablets are also available for inmates to download books.

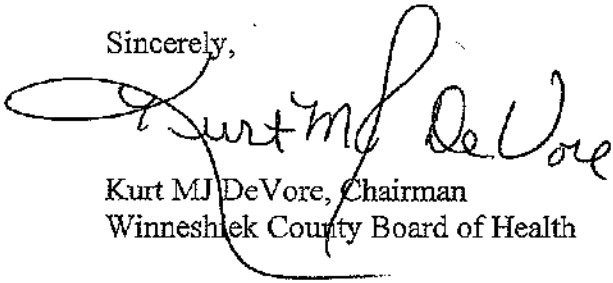
The jail is in the process of adding a padded cell. The room is larger than required due to the strict building codes in place and the way the current jail was constructed. There will be padding on all surfaces except for the ceiling. There are laws which will dictate the frequency and how the inmate is observed by jailers.

The control room was recently renovated. New staff indicated that training on this system has been easy to understand and has increased efficiency. The jail is fully staffed and they have been able to virtually attend Jail School. Staff are doing more case management of inmates prior to release with partners such as county social services, Manpower, NICC and the pharmacies.

Jailers are preparing all the foods onsite in the kitchen. Staff send a menu in advance to a dietician for review. A trend seen nationwide is that higher caloric intake results in happier inmates and the dietician has made these allowances. The Jail will participate in a state inspection for the kitchen through the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals.

The Jail Staff are to be commended for all they are doing to care for the inmates. There is respect between inmates and jailers and needs are addressed. The jail is very clean as the Jail Staff do all of the cleaning of the jail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt M.J. DeVore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kurt M.J. DeVore, Chairman
Winneshiek County Board of Health

Cc: Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors
Jeanne Sebastian, Jail Administrator
Dan Marx, Winneshiek County Sheriff
Jeff Burns, Winneshiek County Chief Deputy