U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

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Inmate Death at FCI Loretto

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Sunday, December 6, 2020, inmate William Sylvia tested positive for COVID-19 at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Loretto in Loretto, Pennsylvania, and was placed in medical isolation. Institution staff monitored Mr. Sylvia's condition and provided treatment. On Sunday, December 27, 2020, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, Mr. Sylvia was converted to a status of recovered following the completion of medical isolation and presenting with no symptoms.

On Saturday, January 8, 2022, Mr. Sylvia tested positive for COVID-19. On Monday, January 10, 2022, Mr. Sylvia was found unresponsive. Responding staff immediately initiated life-saving measures. Staff requested emergency medical services (EMS) and life-saving efforts continued. Subsequently, Mr. Sylvia, who had long-term, pre-existing conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by EMS personnel.

Mr. Sylvia was a 78-year-old male who was sentenced in the District of Maryland to a 120-month sentence for Possession of Child Pornography and Aiding and Abetting. He had been in custody at FCI Loretto since March 4, 2016.

FCI Loretto is a low security facility that currently houses 738 male offenders.

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