

No major contraband found during Ludlow jail sweep; inmates may have flushed items



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LUDLOW - No major contraband was found during [a day-long sweep of every cell](#) at the Hampden County Jail and House of Correction, but Sheriff Nick Cocchi said a lot of inmates began flushing their toilets when the search commenced.

Cocchi said the flushing suggests some of the facility's 1,100 inmates were getting rid of banned items.

"If they did have something and it was flushed, at least it is out of our facility and can no longer be used in any harmful or unproductive way," said Cocchi on Tuesday night.

Cocchi called for the sweep after an inmate was caught hoarding medication. The pills, said the Hampden County Sheriff's Department a few hours later, were authorized and a powdery substance in the inmate's cell turned out to be food.

"My priority is the safety and security of our staff and the inmates in our custody," said Cocchi in a statement to the media. "As such, this demands we do all in our power to prevent drugs and other contraband entering our facilities."

More than a dozen K9 units were involved in the search.

Sheriff's department spokesman Stephen O'Neil said the lack of significant contraband is [a testament to the staff](#) who are responsible for spot checks and other inspections.

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