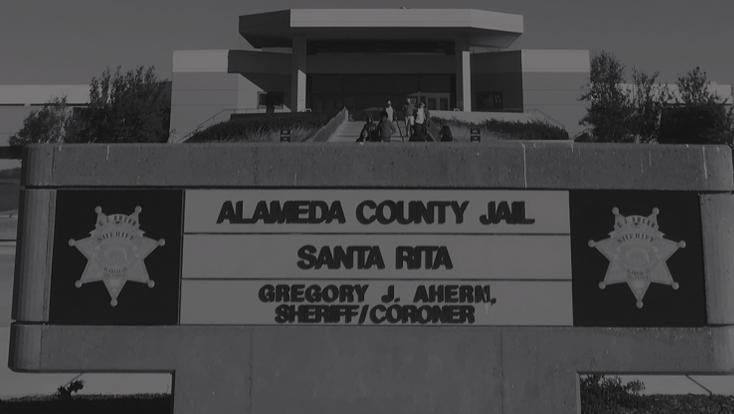


SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2020



NOTE: GIVEN THE LOW TESTING RATE, ALL COVID-19 CASE NUMBERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED UNDERESTIMATIONS

1923

JAIL POPULATION

243

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF POSITIVE
COVID-19 TESTS
SINCE APRIL**

181

**TOTAL
COVID-19 TESTS
ADMINISTERED
IN PAST WEEK**

9%

**OF JAIL
POPULATION
TESTED IN PAST
WEEK**

6

**PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19
SYMPTOMS IN
PAST WEEK**

As August comes to an end, over 230 people in the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) custody have tested positive for COVID-19 since April. There have been two major outbreaks: one in mid-July, which resulted in a peak of 106 infected people; and another outbreak in mid-August during which active cases increased by 300% between Aug 15 and 17. There have been few early releases of prisoners, and no mass releases since orders from Judge Tara Desautels released several hundred people in March and April. The jail population has also increased over time, to about 75% of March 1 levels.

Intake and release (ITR) remains a major concern for COVID-19 exposure. One hotline caller was exposed to the virus on July 8 during booking, when she was placed in a cell with another new arrestee who exhibited symptoms of COVID-19. Both women were

WHY DOES ACSO REFUSE TO RE-TEST PRISONERS WHEN DECLARING THEM "RECOVERED," WHEN THE CONSTANT MOVEMENT OF PRISONERS WITHIN THE JAIL PRESENTS A RISK OF RE-INFECTION AND RE-EXPOSURE?



tested, but the individual with symptoms was released before her test results returned. The caller became ill with COVID-19, missing multiple visits and court dates.

Another prisoner was exposed to COVID-19 when he was housed in a single cell with a person who was exhibiting symptoms of the virus. Deputies later admitted that this placement was incorrect and that the prisoner was supposed to be moved into a quarantine unit. The caller's unit was not on quarantine at the time.

These situations raise serious questions and concerns. Why is the jail moving infected people through non-quarantined units? Why are testing rates so low – only around 10% of the population? And why does ACSO refuse to re-test prisoners when declaring them “recovered,” when the constant movement of prisoners within the jail presents an obvious risk of re-infection and re-exposure?

The Sheriff's COVID-19 dashboard (https://www.alamedacountysheriff.org/admin_covid19.php) has produced a false sense of transparency with the public and with the courts. On August 28, Magistrate Judge

ON AUGUST 28, MAGISTRATE JUDGE NATHANIEL COUSINS CONTINUED A STATUS HEARING ON COVID-19 IN SANTA RITA UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10. PREVIOUSLY, THESE STATUS HEARINGS OCCURRED BIWEEKLY.

Nathaniel Cousins continued a status hearing on COVID-19 in Santa Rita until Friday, October 10. Previously, these status hearing occurred biweekly. As the jail and public officials close ranks, the community is losing valuable opportunities to hold the jail accountable for major inconsistencies in its infection rates – such as the suspiciously high numbers of “asymptomatic positives” and the fact that dozens of prisoners have been declared “recovered” seemingly overnight.

The Santa Rita Jail Hotline works directly with prisoners to determine how they were exposed to COVID-19 and whether the care they are receiving is adequate. Hotline calls suggest a very different reality than what is being presented to the public. If you are interested to become a hotline worker, please fill out this form (https://nlgsf.ourpowerbase.net/SRJ_Hotline_Volunteer_Form).