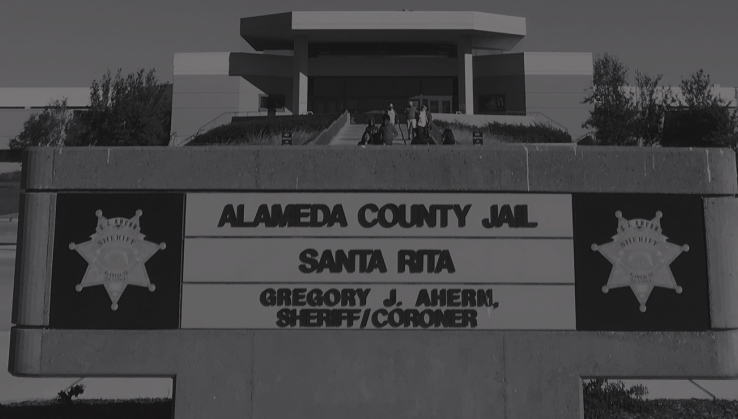


SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020



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

1965

JAIL POPULATION

261

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

17

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF NEW POSITIVE
COVID-19 TESTS
IN PAST WEEK**

12%

**OF JAIL
POPULATION
TESTED IN PAST
WEEK**

18

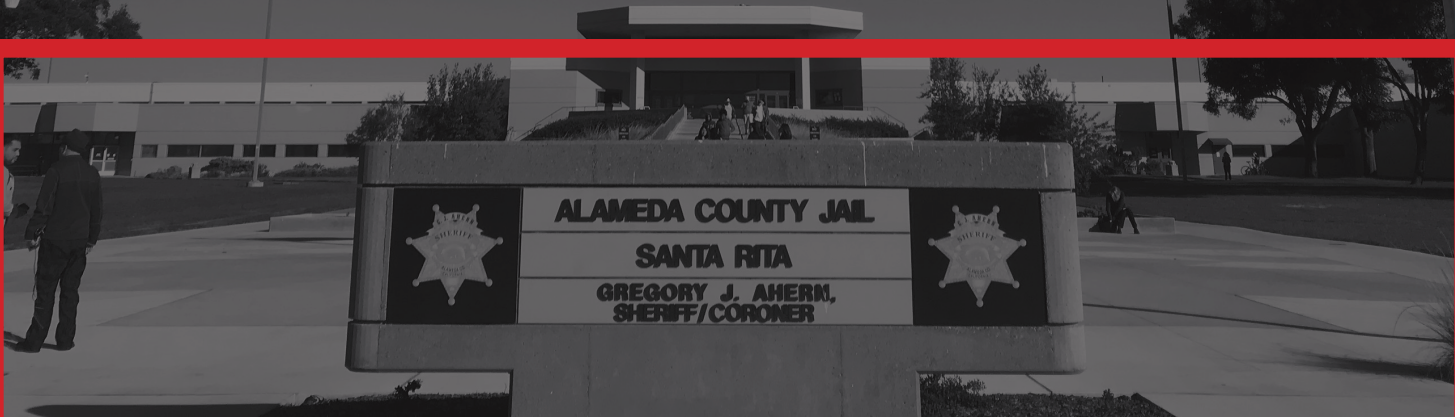
**PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19
SYMPTOMS
TODAY**

IN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14-20:

- 1 hotline caller reported that he was **refused a COVID-19 test**
- 3 hotline callers reported **grievances regarding medical care were denied** or that they were denied access to grievance forms
- 1 hotline caller reported **food contamination**
- 2 hotline callers reported **deputies failing to observe 6-foot social distancing and/or failing to wear masks and gloves**

A PRISONER ON HOW THE JAIL KEEPS ITS REPORTED NUMBERS OF COVID-19 CASES SO LOW:

“THEY KNEW I TESTED POSITIVE, SO WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE RIGHT THEN AND THERE IS QUARANTINE THE WHOLE SECTION. BUT WHAT THEY ENDED UP DOING WAS WAIT UNTIL I WAS DONE WITH MY TWO WEEK QUARANTINE, THEN QUARANTINED THE POD AND TESTED THEM AFTER THOSE TWO WEEKS. SO BY THEN, IF YOU WERE SICK, IT WAS GOING TO BE OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM. THIS WAS ALL TO KEEP THEIR NUMBERS LOW.”



On Monday, September 21, COVID-19 cases at Santa Rita Jail increased by 250 percent overnight after a new outbreak began on September 17. Early on Monday, the jail reported 10 new infections for a total of 14 new cases. This is the third significant outbreak in only two months.

Twelve out of the fourteen positive cases reported on September 21 were in Housing Unit 3B and 3C. Housing Unit 3E and 3F are currently designated for “yellow” prisoners with a known exposure to a COVID-19 positive person, suggesting that **the virus has spread the quarantined units via the movement of deputies and incarcerated workers between units.** Prisoners have frequently reported that deputies, medical staff, and incarcerated workers move between housing units without changing their gloves. On September 22, a prisoner reported that quarantined prisoners in 3B and 3C were refused tests when they requested them a month ago.

The trajectory of previous outbreaks suggests that these numbers will increase. However, the jail’s consistently low testing rate makes it extremely difficult to determine each

THE TRAJECTORY OF PREVIOUS OUTBREAKS SUGGESTS THAT THESE NUMBERS WILL INCREASE. HOWEVER, THE JAIL’S CONSISTENTLY LOW TESTING RATE MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE EACH OUTBREAK’S TRUE MAGNITUDE.

outbreak’s true magnitude. On each day in September, an average of 9% of the population had been tested in the past 7 days. An average of 7% of the population has been tested since this most recent outbreak began on September 17. And, despite the alarming increase in cases on September 21, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) did not test any prisoners for COVID-19 that day.

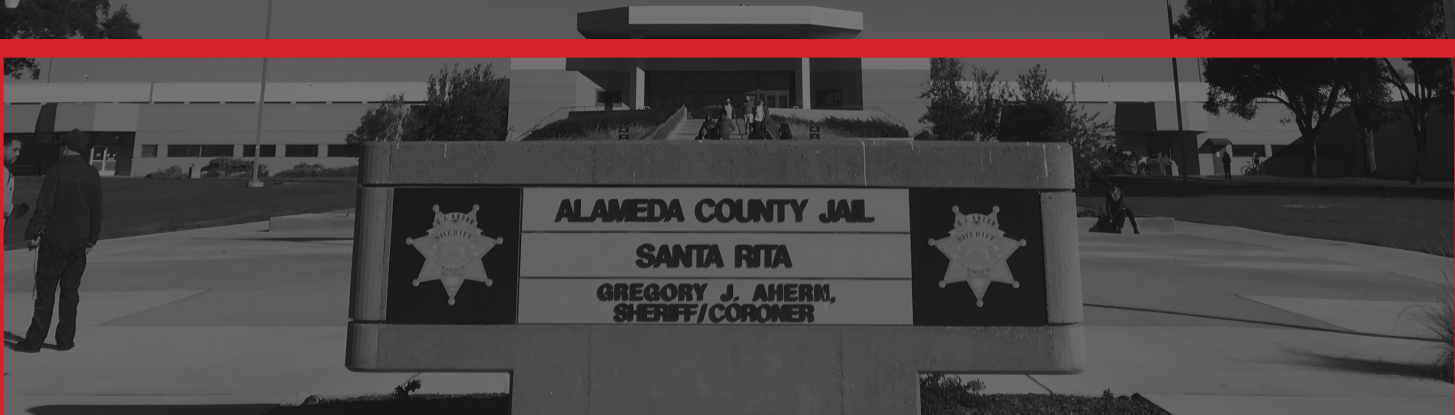
The September 21 outbreak is the latest in a series of COVID-19 outbreaks that have raised serious questions about the Sheriff’s testing and recovery rates:

- **Between July 15-17,** COVID-19 cases increased from 7 to 103, peaking at 110 on July 24. On July 25, 26 people were reported “recovered” overnight even though the outbreak had only lasted 10 days. The following day, only 11 days into the outbreak, another 50 people were reported “recovered” overnight.
- **On August 16,** COVID-19 cases increased from 5 to 18 cases, peaking at 25 cases on August 25. On August 26, only 10 days into the outbreak, 16 people were reported “recovered” overnight.

Advocates suspect that a number of factors are leading to the repeated outbreaks.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PROPER QUARANTINE OF HOUSING UNITS:

- **On September 8,** Housing Unit 9F was quarantined due to a prisoner presenting



with symptoms. The quarantine – initially scheduled until September 22 – was lifted after only 1 day.

- **On September 19**, Housing Unit 4F was quarantined due to a prisoner presenting with symptoms. The quarantine – initially scheduled until October 3 – was lifted on September 21 after only 4 days.

THE JAIL DELAYS TESTING OF QUARANTINED UNITS SO THAT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS RESOLVE BEFORE TESTING:

On May 22, a prisoner reported:

“They knew I tested positive, so what they should have done right then and there is quarantine the whole section. But what they ended up doing was wait until I was done with my two week quarantine, then quarantined the pod and tested them after those two weeks. So by then, if you were sick, it was going to be out of your system. This was all to keep their numbers low.”

THE SEPTEMBER 21 OUTBREAK IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF COVID-19 OUTBREAKS THAT HAVE RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SHERIFF’S TESTING AND RECOVERY RATES.

To view more testimonies from prisoners, please visit www.srjsolidarity.org.

The Santa Rita Jail Hotline works directly with prisoners who have concerns about COVID-19, medical care, and jail conditions. The content of hotline calls suggests a very different reality than what is being presented to the public by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office. If you are interested to become a hotline worker, please fill out this form: https://nlgsf.ourpowerbase.net/SRJ_Hotline_Volunteer_Form