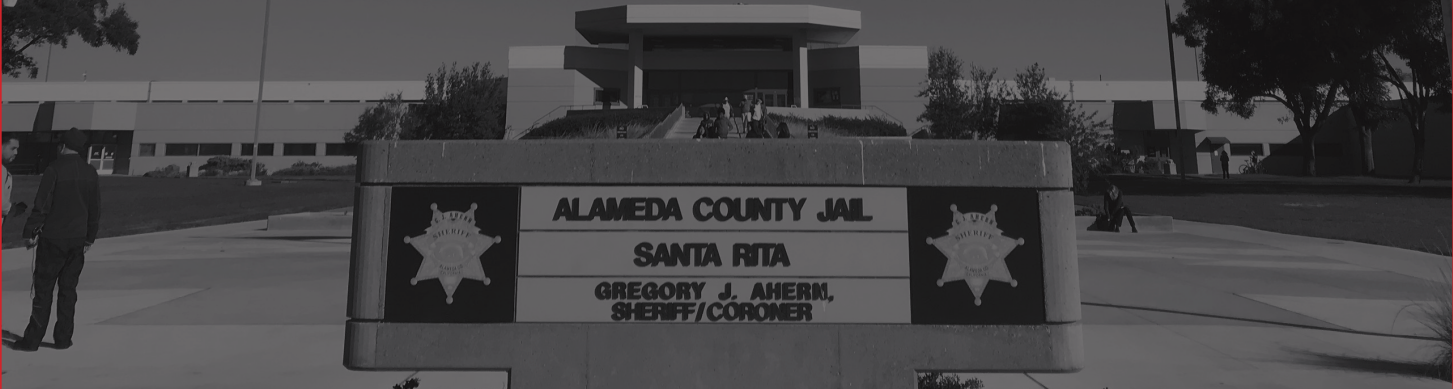


SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020



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

2108

JAIL POPULATION

265

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE COVID-19 TESTS SINCE APRIL

1

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

8%

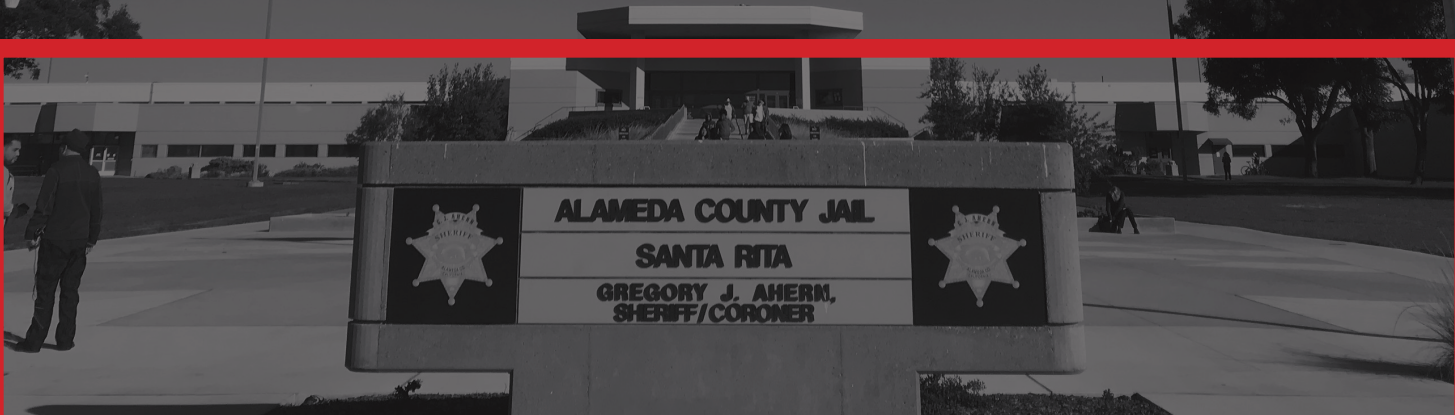
OF JAIL POPULATION TESTED IN PAST WEEK

12

PEOPLE WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS TODAY

IN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 12-19:

- Several prisoners reported that **Deputies and Technicians continue to wear face masks improperly or not at all.**
- A prisoner in Housing Unit 6 reported that as the jail population increases, **more people have been added to his unit from different security levels.** Prisoners' recreation time has been reduced due to security concerns and the need to keep the populations separate.
- Women in Housing Unit 24 reported that **cameras have been installed in their toilets and showers,** violating their privacy.
- A 62-year old woman reported that she has been **unable to get a mammogram since July** despite worrisome symptoms and a family history of breast cancer.
- A woman in Housing Unit 24 was **repeatedly denied cream for painful hemorrhoids.** She was told that she could only receive a small portion at night.
- Two prisoners reported that they are **consistently running out of soap,** and that the new soap contains a hard, gritty substance that irritates the skin and causes rashes.
- A woman in Housing Unit 24 reported that **she found a tooth in her sloppy joe, and a mouse tail in her beans.**



The Santa Rita Jail population is now at the highest level, 2123 prisoners, since March when the population stood at 2,597. Many Santa Rita Jail Hotline callers fear another COVID-19 outbreak, and have warned that the increasing population leaves little room for social distancing. The latest outbreak began on September 17 and infected at least 18 people. Between September 18 and September 22, active cases increased by more than 450%, and at least six housing pods were quarantined. In the week since the outbreak was first discovered, ACSO tested less than 15% of the jail population. It was only by October 12, nearly one month later, that the jail reported zero active cases. Cases remained at zero until Monday, October 19.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) is currently reporting one person infected with COVID-19. There are currently 9 "RED" patients. RED patients include both patients with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting test results, and patients with positive COVID-19 results. As of October 19, the jail reported only four pending COVID-19 tests, meaning that there are four people experiencing COVID-19 symptoms who are unaccounted for by the Sheriff's COVID-19 dashboard.

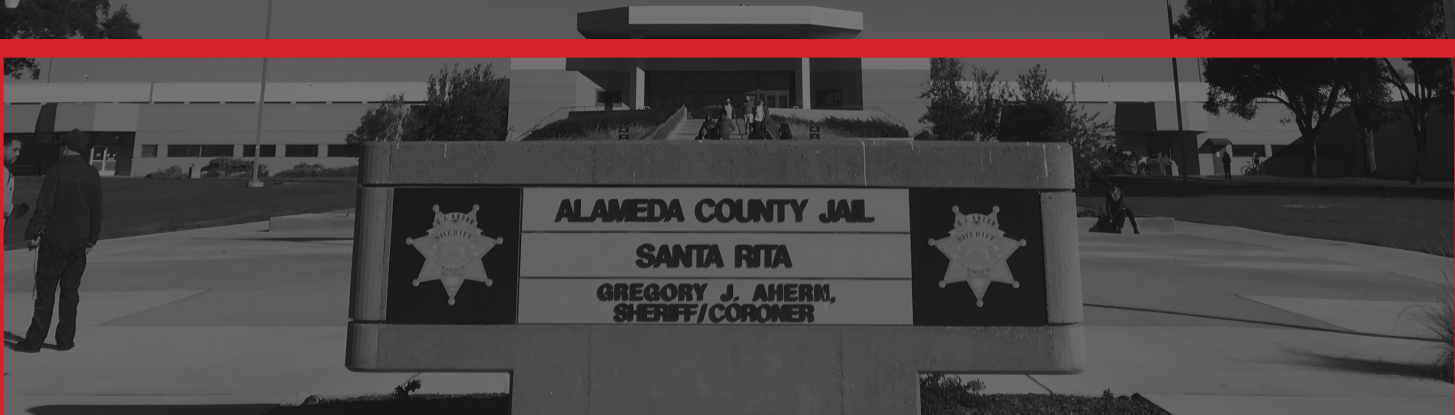
BAY AREA LEGAL AID LETTER

Earlier this month, Bay Area Legal Aid sent a public letter to the Alameda

AS OF OCTOBER 19, THE JAIL REPORTED ONLY FOUR PENDING COVID-19 TESTS, MEANING THAT THERE ARE FOUR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS WHO ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR BY THE SHERIFF'S COVID-19 DASHBOARD.

County Board of Supervisors regarding the Sheriff's contract with Global Tel*Link (GTL), a communication services provider which charges prisoners and their loved ones extremely high fees for basic services such as phone calls and video visits. The cost of a 25-minute phone call averages \$5.25, while a 25-minute video session averages \$6.25. GTL also charges a transaction fee of \$5.95 each time someone adds money to a prepaid account, regardless of the amount of money deposited.

The quality of communication delivered by GTL is consistently poor. Phone calls – including calls between prisoners and their attorneys – are frequently dropped and suffer from feedback and echoes. Video visits are also of poor quality, with the quality often reduced further to account for "connectivity issues." Additionally, NLG-SF Santa Rita Jail Hotline callers frequently report that they are never summoned for video visits by deputies. This results in family members spending over \$6 just to see an empty room, and creates frustration for prisoners who are hoping to meet with attorneys and advocates.



ADDITIONALLY, NLG-SF SANTA RITA JAIL HOTLINE CALLERS FREQUENTLY REPORT THAT THEY ARE NEVER SUMMONED FOR VIDEO VISITS BY DEPUTIES. THIS RESULTS IN FAMILY MEMBERS SPENDING OVER \$6 JUST TO SEE AN EMPTY ROOM, AND CREATES FRUSTRATION FOR PRISONERS WHO ARE HOPING TO MEET WITH ATTORNEYS AND ADVOCATES.

Bay Area Legal Aid reports that Santa Rita jail receives a commission of at least \$2.3 million dollars a year in exchange for the GTL contract:

“This commission is grossly misguided, as it simply shifts the costs of maintaining jail programs to those incarcerated and their families—predominantly people of color, people with disabilities, and people who are already struggling to make ends meet. Commissions like these are effectively a punitive tax to build revenue and supplement jail budgets, at the expense of the very people they are stated to support—and the very people least able to afford it. While this commission represents a huge sum to raise on the backs of poor communities, it is less than 1% of the Alameda County Sheriff Office’s annual budget.”

The letter was signed by the National Lawyers Guild – SF Bay Area, along with the ACLU of Northern California, Asian Prisoner Support Committee, Bay Area Community Services, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice, East Bay Community Law Center, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Homeless Action Center, and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area.

To view more testimonies from prisoners, please visit www.srjsolidarity.org. The National Lawyers Guild 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