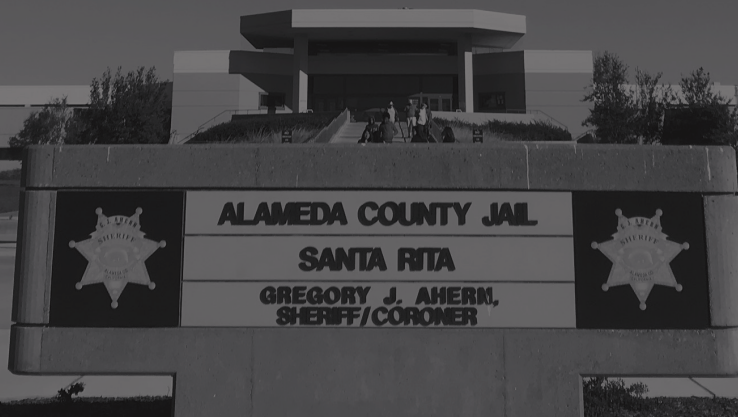


SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020



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

2139

JAIL POPULATION

266

TOTAL NUMBER
OF POSITIVE
COVID-19 TESTS
SINCE APRIL

1

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

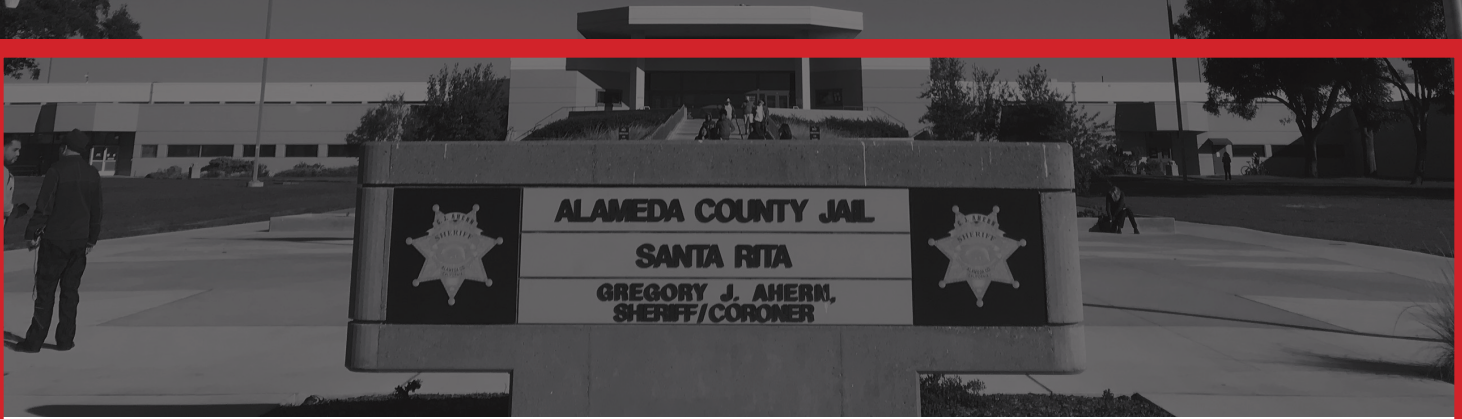
7%

OF JAIL
POPULATION
TESTED IN PAST
WEEK

8

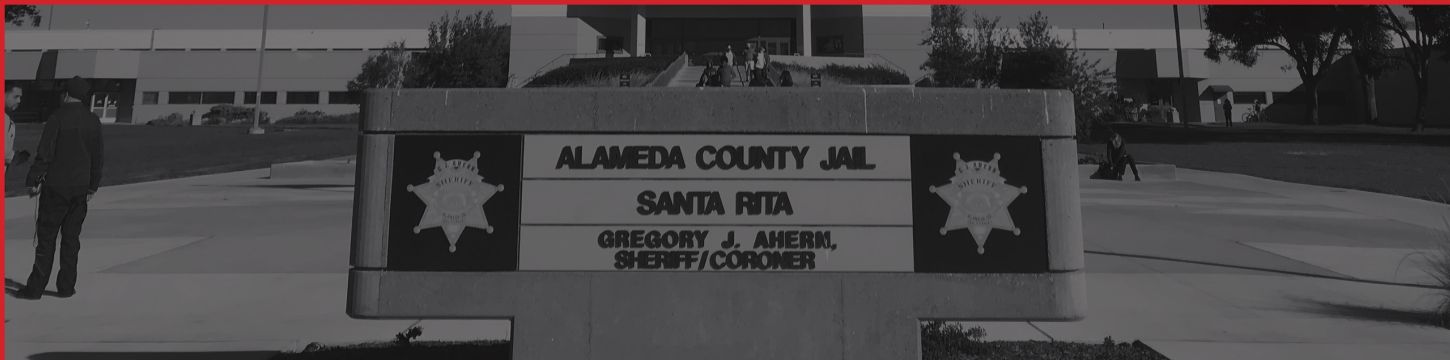
PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19
SYMPTOMS
TODAY

WHILE THE JAIL IS REPORTING ZERO ACTIVE CASES, THERE ARE SEVERAL INDICATORS THAT TELL A DIFFERENT STORY. FIRSTLY, THE JAIL HAS REPORTED AN INCREASE IN RED PATIENTS TO EIGHT PEOPLE. RED PATIENTS INCLUDE BOTH PATIENTS WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AWAITING TEST RESULTS, AND PATIENTS WITH POSITIVE COVID-19 RESULTS. AS THE JAIL IS REPORTING ZERO ACTIVE CASES, THIS MEANS THAT THERE ARE EIGHT PEOPLE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS. ADDITIONALLY, SINCE THIS LAST REPORTED CASE ON OCTOBER 19, ONLY 8% OF THE JAIL POPULATION HAS BEEN TESTED, AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF TESTS PER DAY HAS DROPPED. THE JAIL HAS ALSO QUARANTINED FOUR NEW HOUSING PODS.



IN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19-OCTOBER 26:

- **4 prisoners reported that they saw masks not worn properly by staff or contractors.** One prisoner says, “they have all these rules for the public about covering your face and everything, but they’re not enforcing it here.”
- **3 prisoners reported a lack of consistent cleaning supplies.** One prisoner reported that he uses his own detergent and body wash from the commissary to clean his cell. Another prisoner reported that someone in her pod attempted to use a spray bottle of cleaning fluid to clean after jail-authorized cleaning hours. A deputy intervened and threatened the prisoner, saying “Do you want to be noticed? Because that’s how you get noticed.”
- **2 prisoners reported finding contaminants in their food,** such as cockroaches and pieces of metal.
- **1 prisoner reported that a new person arrived in his housing unit without doing a 14-day quarantine.**
- **3 prisoners reported issues with their jail-issued tablets,** including broken tablets, connectivity issues, lack of access due to significant delays in passing out the tablets, and overcharging for services. GTL currently charges 5.95 for a game for 30 days, 8.99 per month for a radio station, and 7.99 to rent a movie for 24 hours. Prisoners feel that they are losing money because they don’t actually have 24-hour access to tablets, which are issued each morning around 7am and confiscated at 10pm each night.
- **1 prisoner reported that he suffered a fall after being denied a wheelchair for several weeks.** He reported that while he has filed numerous grievances, he cannot figure out who is responsible because deputies cover their badges.
- **2 prisoners expressed a desire for more programs and opportunities,** such as mentoring at-risk youth and access to counseling for childhood abuse and trauma.



The Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) is now reporting zero active cases of COVID-19. The last active case they reported was on October 19, which ACSO claimed to have been resolved after only six days. **While the jail is reporting zero active cases, there are several indicators that tell a different story.**

Firstly, the jail has reported an increase in red patients to eight people. Red patients include both patients with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting test results, and patients with positive COVID-19 results. As the jail is reporting zero active cases, this means that there are **eight people currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.**

Additionally, since this last reported case on October 19, **only 8% of the jail population has been tested, and the average number of tests per day has dropped. The jail has also quarantined four new housing pods.**

The jail also reported **one new staff contractor case on October 23**, for a total of 53 reported staff cases. There is ongoing concern over the Sheriff's COVID-19 dashboard, which exhibits discrepancies in infection numbers for both prisoners and staff.

STAFF ARE WIDELY VIEWED AS VECTORS FOR COVID-19 BY PRISONERS, WHO HAVE DOCUMENTED NUMEROUS INSTANCES WHERE STAFF WEAR MASKS IMPROPERLY BY PULLING THEM DOWN OVER THEIR NOSE AND CHIN.

THERE IS ONGOING CONCERN OVER THE SHERIFF'S COVID-19 DASHBOARD, WHICH EXHIBITS DISCREPANCIES IN INFECTION NUMBERS FOR BOTH PRISONERS AND STAFF.

ACSO reported 53 total staff cases from August 11 to September 3, before dropping the number to only 52. And while ACSO reports a total of 265 cases among the prisoner population, that math doesn't add up. On October 26, ACSO's three breakout categories for COVID-19 cases make a total of 266 cases:

- 177 formerly positive COVID-19 inmates have completely recovered and are still in custody.
- 60 formerly positive COVID-19 inmates have recovered and are no longer in custody.
- 29 inmates who tested positive for COVID-19 were released from custody.

ACSO has provided little public information regarding when and how their staff is tested, and whether that testing is self-reported or compulsory. Staff are widely viewed as vectors for COVID-19 by prisoners, who have documented numerous instances where staff wear masks improperly by pulling them down over their nose and chin. Attorneys appearing in the county courthouses have also observed improper mask usage by deputies.



The National Lawyers Guild Santa Rita Hotline also received two calls regarding the jail's **quarantine and testing practices:**

- A prisoner in Housing Unit 21C, which was quarantined from October 8 until October 11, reported to the Hotline that one person was pulled out of her unit to be tested for COVID-19. Fortunately, that person tested negative. The caller was concerned that, while the Housing Unit was yellow-tagged, no additional cleaning and sanitation measures were taken and no one else in the unit was tested during that time. This caused fear and depression amongst prisoners who did not know what was going on or for how long their recreation time would be restricted.
- A prisoner has demanded a COVID-19 test since July because he suffers from Hepatitis C and is higher-risk. He recently experienced a depressive episode and was briefly hospitalized, where he received a COVID-19 test and tested negative, which eased his anxiety significantly. He reported to the Santa Rita Hotline that he believes it is unacceptable that a suicide attempt was what it took for him to be tested. However, a few days after returning to the jail, the prisoner began experiencing COVID-19 or flulike symptoms. He reports that a nurse is monitoring his temperature, but that the jail continues to deny him a second test despite advocacy by his family and attorney.

ALAMEDA COUNTY PAYS \$5 MILLION SETTLEMENT TO THE FAMILY OF CHRISTIAN MADRIGAL

On October 22, Alameda County agreed to pay a \$5 million settlement to the family of Christian Madrigal, a 20-year-old Fremont resident who died in Santa Rita after being chained to a door by Sheriff's Lieutenant Craig Cedergren, who has since been fired. Cedergren admitted to chaining Christian Madrigal to the door, even though there is no policy that allows chaining people to doors as a form of restraint. A prisoner who read the news in the East Bay Times called the Santa Rita Hotline to report that they believe this kind of abuse is far more widespread than is reported, and that ACSO is not truthful with the media or with the public.

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://nlgs.ourpowerbase.net/SRJ_Hotline_Volunteer_Form