

SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

DECEMBER 28, 2020–JANUARY 4, 2021



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

2158

JAIL POPULATION

414

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE
COVID-19 TESTS SINCE APRIL

75

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

14%

OF JAIL POPULATION
TESTED IN PAST WEEK

80

PEOPLE WITH COVID-19

16

(ADDITIONAL) PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

** To view all historical population data and quarantines, visit bit.ly/SRJCOVID-19.*

AS THE DECEMBER OUTBREAK ENTERED ITS SECOND WEEK, CASES PEAKED AT 109 ON DECEMBER 30. THE FOLLOWING DAY, SANTA RITA JAIL REPORTED ONLY 87 CASES, DESPITE DISCOVERING 11 NEW CASES, BECAUSE AROUND 33 PEOPLE WERE DECLARED TO BE RECOVERED... TESTING THEN STOPPED ENTIRELY FOR TWO DAYS FROM JANUARY 2-3.



As the December outbreak entered its second week, cases peaked at 109 on December 30. The following day, Santa Rita Jail reported only 87 cases, despite discovering 11 new cases, because around 33 people were declared to be recovered and one person was released while positive on Friday, January 1. Improbably, testing then stopped entirely for two days from January 2-January 3.

Santa Rita Jail prisoner Eric Wayne reported this week that, despite the ongoing outbreak which has impacted 93 deputies to date, staff mask usage remains inconsistent. He has personally witnessed staff pull masks down so that their noses and even mouths are uncovered.

This week, Wellpath (Santa Rita Jail's private healthcare provider) created a new category, "Dark Red," for people who have tested positive for COVID-19. This distinguishes them from "Red" patients currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. However, the Sheriff's attorneys have not yet approved the release

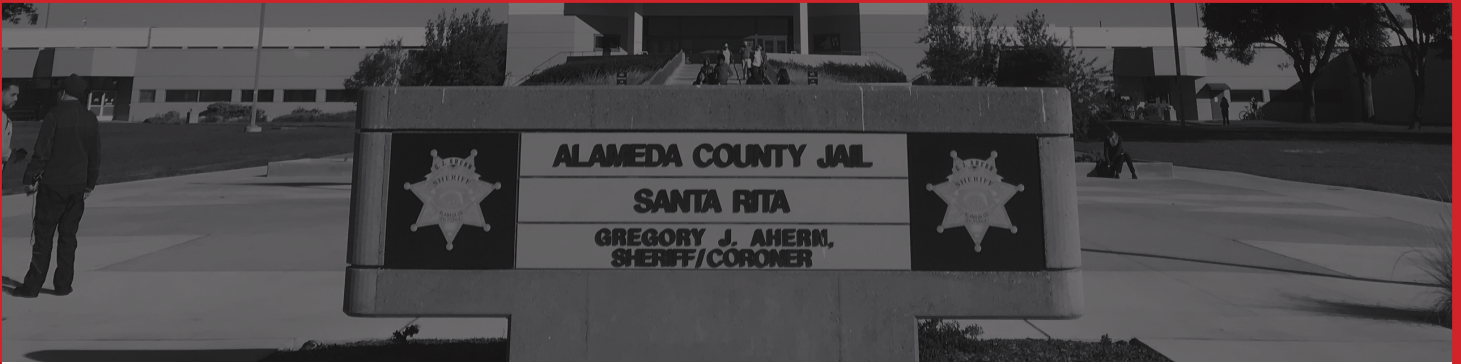
HOWEVER, THE SHERIFF'S ATTORNEYS HAVE NOT YET APPROVED THE RELEASE OF A NEW OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN, LEAVING ADVOCATES IN THE DARK ABOUT WHAT NEW PRACTICES WELLPATH HAS IMPLEMENTED FOR TESTING AND CATEGORIZING PRISONERS, AS WELL AS HOW THEY ARE DETERMINED TO BE "RECOVERED."

of a new Outbreak Control Plan, leaving advocates in the dark about what new practices Wellpath has implemented for testing and categorizing prisoners, as well as how they are determined to be "recovered."

ADVOCATE GROUP DECARCERATE ALAMEDA COUNTY RELEASES DEMANDS & SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

Decarcerate Alameda County released an Action Alert and social media toolkit [<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ohFWv5mDAuht7eN1czg0ujGCXdFTagkX-ru8uMR8EW8/edit?usp=sharing>] for community members to advocate for releases and other actions which would help to mitigate the outbreak. Demands include:

- Petition to release all people at higher risk of COVID complications, regardless of their charge or conviction.
- Petition to release everyone with 18 months or less to serve on their sentence, regardless of their conviction.
- Petition to release everyone being held pretrial, regardless of their charge.
- Petition to release everyone being held on probation violations.
- Instruct charging deputies to end their practice of overcharging immediately, as these charging decisions do not accurately reflect the seriousness of the case and lead to excessive bail, among other consequences.



- Do not seek bench warrants for failures to appear.
- Urge judges to follow the emergency bail schedule.
- Allow all people with credit for time served at report and sentence offers to be released.
- Encourage all police agencies to cite and release all people arrested for any offense.
- Implement mandatory weekly testing of staff and contractors.

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

FEATURED TESTIMONY: DEANGELO CORTIJO

Monday, December 28

For the past five days, I have been in the Covid quarantine unit (8A). The sanitation here is abysmal. There is dirt and grime on the floor and walls, and dry throw up on walls and on the drinking fountain. The surface areas are not wiped, the showers are not cleaned. When I asked for cleaning supplies, the deputies gave me a bottle of sanitizer, an old toilet brush, and a small broom handle. I've asked for a mop for the past 3 days, and my request was denied by the deputies. In order to receive medical tests, such as blood pressure, oxygen monitoring, and temperature checks, I have been forced to squat at or below waist level and put my arms and face against rusted food tray slots. There are people in SRJ who are gravely and mentally disabled, and cannot defend for

themselves. We are in critical need of our community to come forward and ensure that our basic human rights are being protected, and that law enforcement agencies are held accountable to the public.

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN SRJ WHO ARE GRAVELY AND MENTALLY DISABLED, AND CANNOT DEFEND FOR THEMSELVES. WE ARE IN CRITICAL NEED OF OUR COMMUNITY TO COME FORWARD AND ENSURE THAT OUR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING PROTECTED, AND THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC.