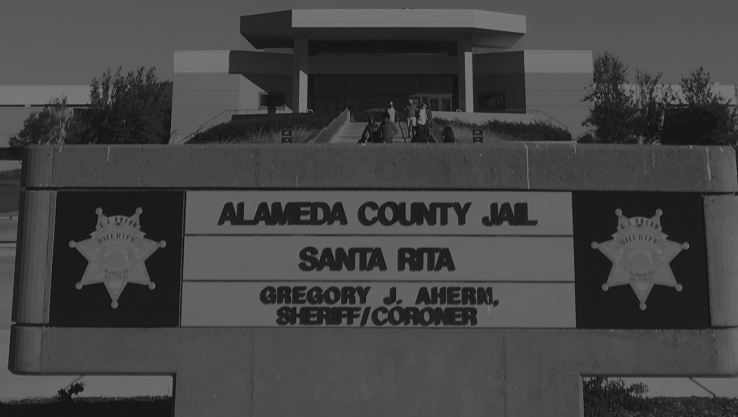


SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

JANUARY 11–17, 2021



STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 17, 2021.

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

2109

JAIL POPULATION

438

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSITIVE
COVID-19 TESTS SINCE APRIL

15

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

17%

OF JAIL POPULATION
TESTED IN PAST WEEK

12

PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19
("DARK RED")

13

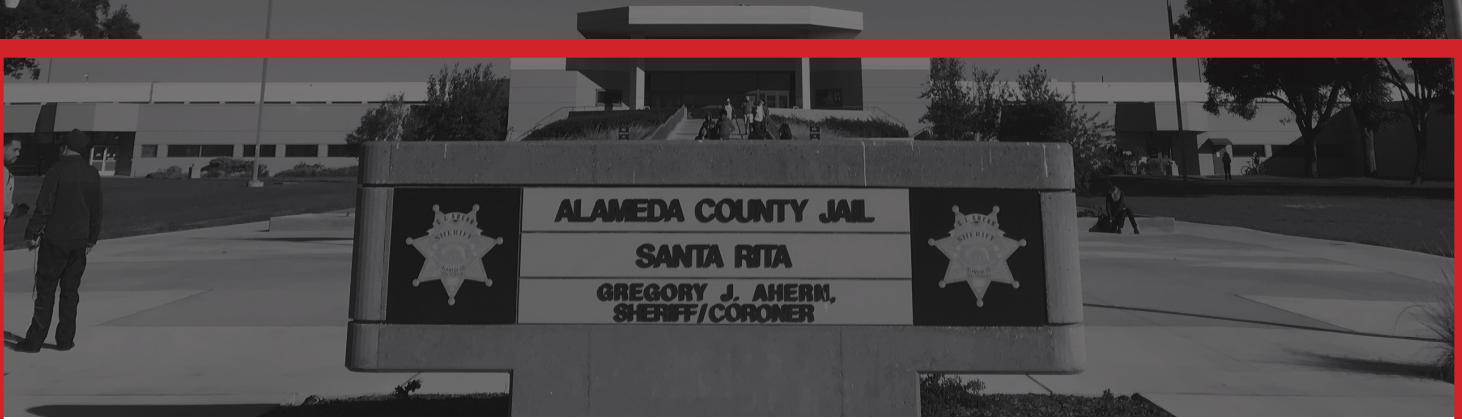
PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19 SYMPTOMS
("RED")

20

NUMBER OF HOUSING
PODS QUARANTINED
THIS WEEK*

** Housing Units in Santa Rita Jail have been quarantined repeatedly, some numerous times just in one month. This causes stress and anxiety, results in canceled court dates, and reduces people's contact with their legal and emotional support systems. Every single dorm-style unit in Santa Rita Jail has been quarantined at least once in just the past month.*

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



Nearly a month into Santa Rita Jail's enduring COVID-19 outbreak, the inadequacy of the jail's quarantine and testing procedures has been thrown into sharp relief. While Public Health recommends testing for *all individuals* who have been in contact with a suspected case, Santa Rita Jail continues to base its decisions on individual "index cases," on whose COVID-19 test depends the quarantine status of an entire housing unit. This practice would be an obvious risk for a household or workplace, yet it is apparently good enough for Santa Rita's dorms, where hundreds of individuals share the same air space and sleep stacked on top of one another in bunk beds. Every single dorm in Santa Rita Jail has been quarantined during this outbreak. This constant churn has further delayed court proceedings. Continued court dates are an enormous source of stress for many

EVERY SINGLE DORM IN SANTA RITA JAIL HAS BEEN QUARANTINED DURING THIS OUTBREAK. THIS CONSTANT CHURN HAS FURTHER DELAYED COURT PROCEEDINGS. CONTINUED COURT DATES ARE AN ENORMOUS SOURCE OF STRESS FOR MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING PRISON-LENGTH TERMS IN A FACILITY THAT IS UNPREPARED – AND DEEPLY DISINTERESTED IN – MEETING THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN LONG-TERM CONFINEMENT.

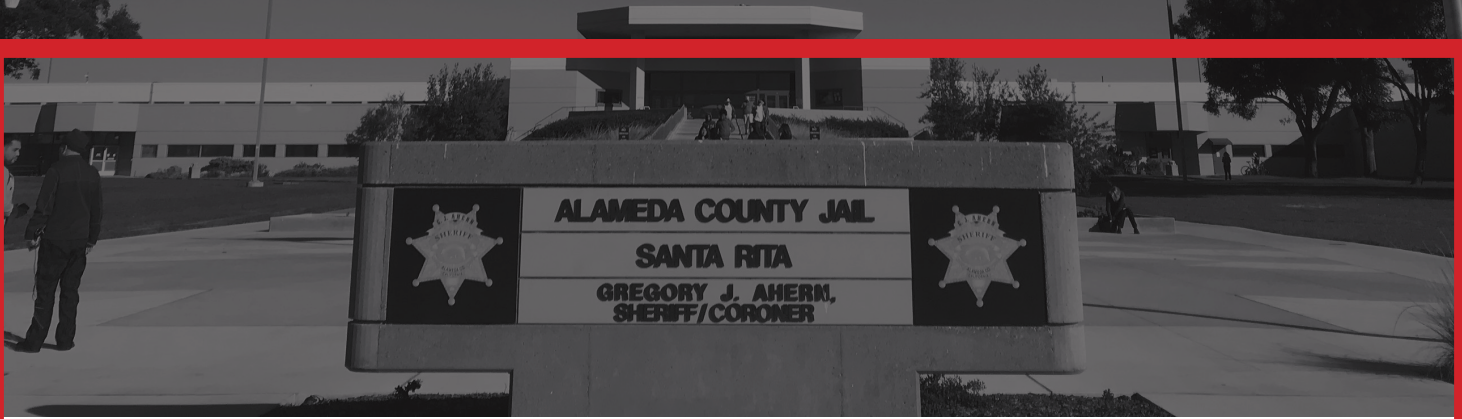
people who are serving prison-length terms in a facility that is unprepared – and deeply disinterested in – meeting the physical and emotional needs of people in long-term confinement. On Wednesday, January 13th, the Santa Rita Jail Hotline received a call from an pretrial detainee who has been in Santa Rita since early 2019. He reported that he has not been to court in a year.

Also on Wednesday, when there was a high volume of calls, a caller left a voicemail to the Santa Rita Jail Hotline: **"We need help in Santa Rita. Real bad. It's getting out of control and we can't handle it no more. We just need help here, please. Somebody help us in Santa Rita!"**

More and more Housing Units have been quarantined throughout the week. Despite their claim to be accountable and transparent with the public, ACSO has still failed to release an updated outbreak plan, which now includes the category "Dark Red" to separate those who have tested positive from those who are suffering from suspected symptoms.

LAX COVID-19 SAFETY PRACTICES

A woman in Housing Unit 24 who is a Certified Nursing Assistant commented on the persistent lack of cleaning and sanitation supplies. She reported that cleaning supplies have only been provided once per day for 30 minutes, around 6pm. The supplies consist of



“WE NEED HELP IN SANTA RITA. REAL BAD. IT’S GETTING OUT OF CONTROL AND WE CAN’T HANDLE IT NO MORE. WE JUST NEED HELP HERE, PLEASE. SOMEBODY HELP US IN SANTA RITA!”

an antibacterial spray, Windex, a broom, and a mop that is used and re-used over and over.

Another woman in Housing Unit 24 reported that she witnessed a sick deputy at the beginning of December. On December 6, Deputy Bend appeared visibly ill - she was coughing, her eyes were watering, and her skin looked “yellowish.” Deputy Bend insisted that her symptoms were due to having “too many energy drinks.”

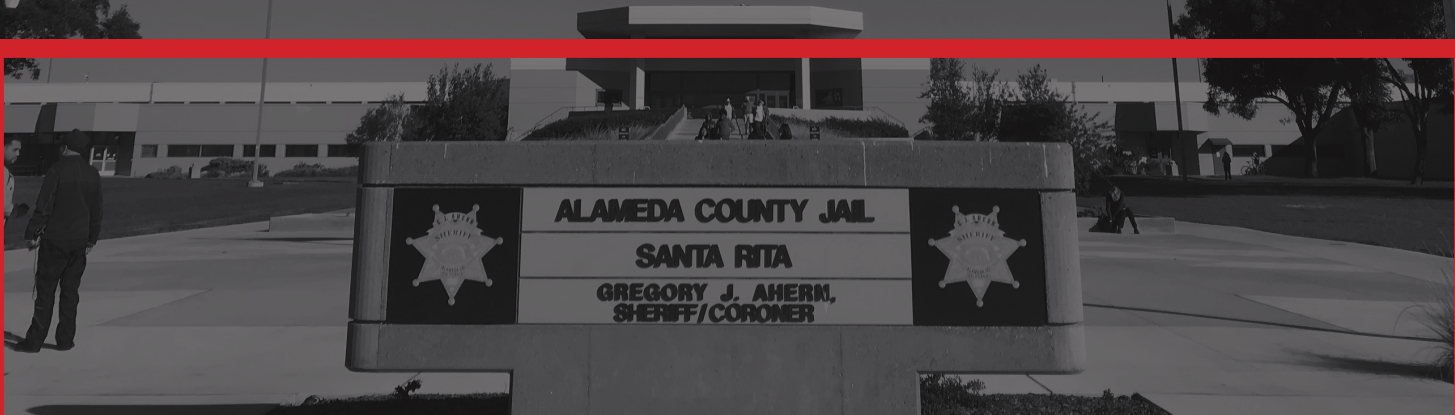
A woman in Housing Unit 24 reported that on Friday, December 15, she went to an appointment with her physical therapist and the individual was sitting at desk without a mask.

QUARANTINES NOT RESPECTED

Prisoners in Housing Unit 8E and Housing Unit 24 reported throughout the week that deputies were not respecting their quarantines, sending in pod workers to clean and deliver food between quarantined and non-quarantined pods.

On Friday, January 15, a caller reported that he was in Housing Unit 34, a dorm-style unit, when the December 23 outbreak began. On December 27, everyone in the Housing Unit was tested. After a few days, deputies made an announcement that several individuals should pack up their belongings. While people in the unit assumed they had tested positive, the individuals were allowed to remain together in the unit for another day. Then, around 40 of them were moved into the adjacent Housing Unit, 35, another dorm-style unit. At least three people in this group ultimately tested positive and were removed from the unit, only after two separate populations had intermingled. Both housing units have remained quarantined for over three weeks, and the jail did not begin performing serial testing until Monday, January 11.

WHILE PEOPLE IN THE UNIT ASSUMED THEY HAD TESTED POSITIVE, THE INDIVIDUALS WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN TOGETHER IN THE UNIT FOR ANOTHER DAY. THEN, AROUND 40 OF THEM WERE MOVED INTO THE ADJACENT HOUSING UNIT, 35, ANOTHER DORM-STYLE UNIT. AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE IN THIS GROUP ULTIMATELY TESTED POSITIVE AND WERE REMOVED FROM THE UNIT, ONLY AFTER TWO SEPARATE POPULATIONS HAD INTERMINGLED.



FEATURED TESTIMONY: ANONYMOUS

Monday, January 11, 2021

Today, I was placed on Loss of Privileges (LOP) for 60 days because I was 5 minutes late to lock up. A technician incorrectly logged the beginning of my pod time and cut it short by 5 minutes, so I stayed outside because I was on the phone with my children and wanted to finish my conversation. Now, I will have no access to my children for 60 days. Why are our children being traumatized like this? No matter what the mother did, the children should not be punished. For the next 60 days, I also cannot order food from commissary. The food is so bad in here, but food is a basic human right. Just because you're in jail, it doesn't mean you should starve.

FEATURED TESTIMONY: DEANGELO CORTIJO

Monday, January 11, 2021

Video court should never be a replacement for in-person court. There is no justice in video court. Our appearances are being waived, so people are waiting months for court. This is undermining our democracy – it feels like we're regressing. People fought and died for our rights, and now they're being violated.

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