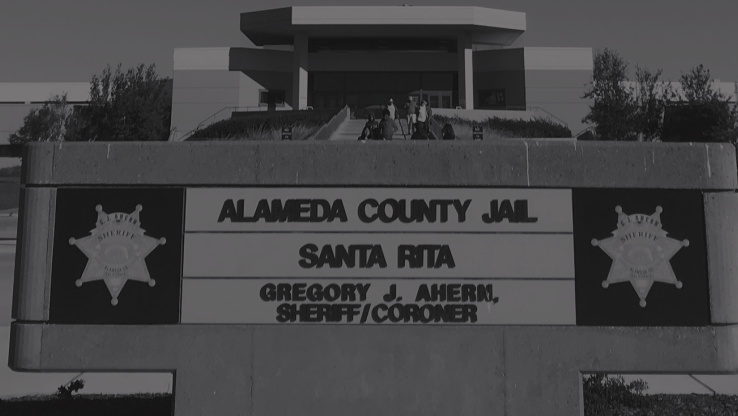


SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

JANUARY 18–24, 2021



STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 24, 2021.

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

2159

JAIL POPULATION

503

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

65

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

24%

**OF JAIL POPULATION
TESTED IN PAST WEEK**

70

**PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19
("DARK RED")**

7

**PEOPLE WITH
COVID-19 SYMPTOMS
("RED")**

24

**NUMBER OF HOUSING
PODS QUARANTINED
THIS WEEK***

15

**NUMBER OF HOUSING
PODS UNDERGOING SERIAL
TESTING THIS WEEK****

NOTES ON STATISTICS

* 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.

** Santa Rita Jail's testing rates are currently much higher, around 24%, than during previous outbreaks. During previous outbreaks, an average of 7-10% of the jail population was tested within any given week. The implementation of serial testing

means that some individuals will be tested multiple times, so testing coverage is likely below 24% of the entire jail population.

For more complete statistics and COVID-19 quarantines, please visit bit.ly/SRJCOVID-19.

For information about the Santa Rita Jail Hotline, please contact srjhotline@nlgf.org.

For more information about the SRJ Solidarity Weekly Updates and testimony-gathering project, please contact info@srjsolidarity.org.



SNAPSHOT OF HOUSING UNIT 25: COVID REACHES HIGH RISK POD

On Thursday, January 21, the Hotline received a call from an individual in Housing Unit 25, a dorm-style unit. Housing Unit 25 has been quarantined three times in the past three months, most recently on January 8th. The Housing Unit was released two days later because ACSO and Wellpath chose to test a single person rather than test the entire dorm. Only four days later, on January 14, the unit was quarantined yet again as more people began to show symptoms.

The caller shared that he has been housed in Building 25's high-risk or "orange" pod since December 1, before this outbreak began. An individual who has also been in the pod since before December 1 began to show symptoms on Wednesday, January 14. Even though he said he was already experiencing headaches, coughing, and fever for three days, the individual was not removed from the pod until Sunday, January 17. Finally, the

WHEN HE RAISED THE ISSUE, A DEPUTY TOLD HIM "DON'T TELL ME HOW TO DO MY JOB." "DEPUTIES NEED TO BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR CONDITIONS AND WELLBEING," HE SAID. "HOW ARE YOU KEEPING ME IN A HIGH-RISK POD BUT I'M STILL GETTING EXPOSED?"

jail initiated serial testing for the high-risk pod on Monday, January 18.

The caller was extremely concerned that he may have been infected by nurses or by deputies who came to the facility to work overtime. "I didn't come here sick," he said, noting that deputies entering the pod are still clad in their outside uniforms with gun holsters and protective vests. He has also noticed that staff are not regularly changing their gloves when moving between pods. When he raised the issue, a deputy told him "don't tell me how to do my job." "Deputies need to be more concerned about our conditions and wellbeing," he said. "How are you keeping me in a high-risk pod but I'm still getting exposed?"

NO ACCOUNTABILITY FROM ACSO AND WELLPATH

On Friday, January 22, advocates attended Supervisor Richard Valle's conference call at Santa Rita Jail. When questioned about the outbreak in Housing Unit 25, Mike Durbin (HSA, Wellpath) claimed that Wellpath has met the necessary precautions for individuals with comorbidities, such as cohorting high-risk individuals and providing them with PPE. He admitted that there is a recognized outbreak in the dorm and described it as a "regrettable incident." ACSO and Wellpath were unable to account for what caused the outbreak, but admitted when questioned that staff who are



ACSO AND WELLPATH WERE UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR WHAT CAUSED THE OUTBREAK, BUT ADMITTED WHEN QUESTIONED THAT STAFF WHO ARE CATEGORIZED AS FIRST RESPONDERS ARE PERMITTED TO REPORT TO WORK PENDING A COVID-19 TEST, EVEN IF THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED.

categorized as first responders are permitted to report to work pending a COVID-19 test, even if they believe they have been exposed. ACSO was unable to specify which staff are considered first responders and whether those individuals are currently working in high-risk medical housing units.

MORE REPORTS FROM THE SANTA RITA JAIL HOTLINE

- On Monday, 1/18, **a caller reported that he has not been able to see his psychiatrist in over 3 weeks.** When he asked, deputies told him he is not allowed to talk to anyone because of COVID-19.

- On Wednesday, 1/20, **a caller in Housing Unit 6 reported that he saw two staff members, Deputy Parker and Deputy Miller, not wearing masks.**

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