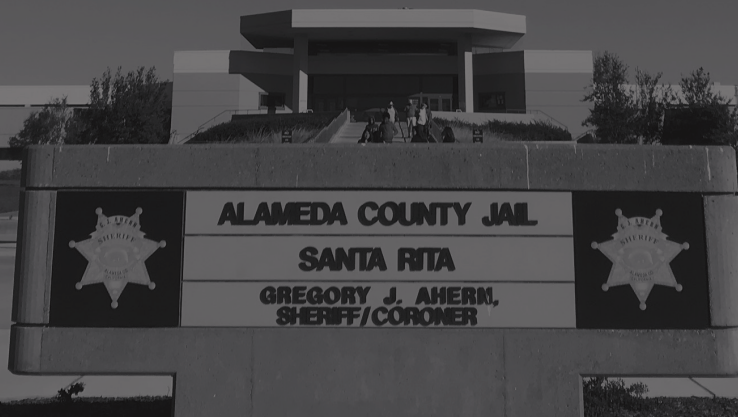


SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

JANUARY 25-31, 2021



STATISTICS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2021.

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

2150

JAIL POPULATION

520

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

17

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

10%

**OF JAIL POPULATION
TESTED IN PAST WEEK**

35

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

8

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

23

**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.

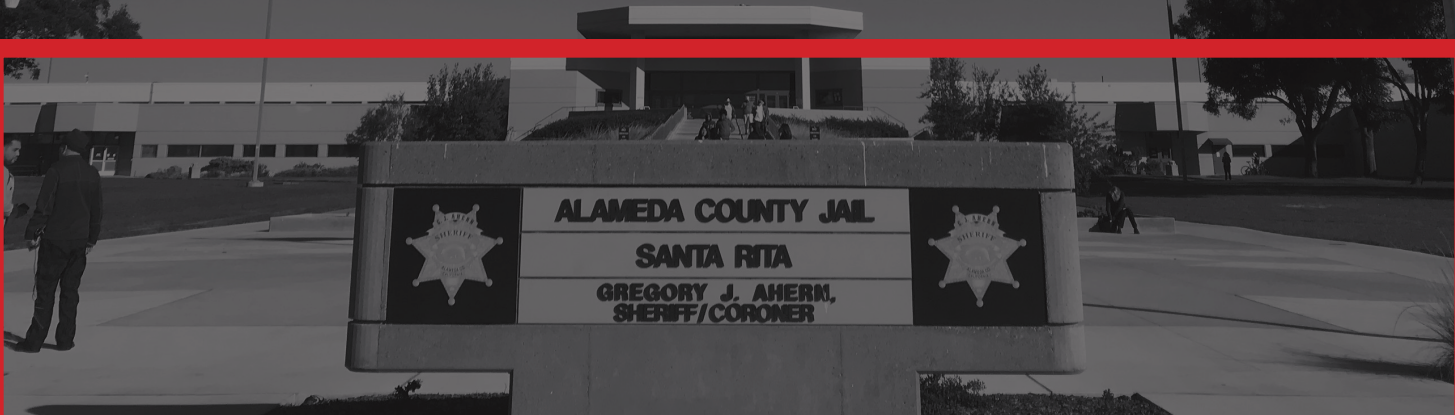
** Santa Rita Jail's testing rates are currently much higher, around 24%, than during previous outbreaks. During previous outbreaks, an average of 7-10% of the jail population was tested within any given week. The implementation of serial testing

means that some individuals will be tested multiple times, so testing coverage is likely below this for 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.



QUARANTINES IN SANTA RITA JAIL

During the week of January 25, Santa Rita Jail initiated serial testing for 16 housing pods. A Hotline caller in a serial testing cohort reported that after being moved to a quarantine pod from his high-risk area in Housing Unit 25, his recreation time was severely limited. **Each two-person cell is currently receiving 1 hour of time in which to shower, use the phone, and stretch their legs. Despite being categorized as a high-risk patient due to his high blood pressure, he says, all his usual medical check-ups completely ceased when he was moved to the new isolation unit.** When he requested to have his blood pressure checked as usual, a nurse told him he simply wasn't on the list.

On Thursday, January 28, the entire dormitory-style Housing Unit 34 was placed under quarantine. In pods A through C, someone began to show symptoms. But in pods D through F, the quarantine was due to "close contact with a COVID-19 positive case." When asked to account for this exposure, Wellpath representative Mike Durbin explained that a **COVID-19 positive**

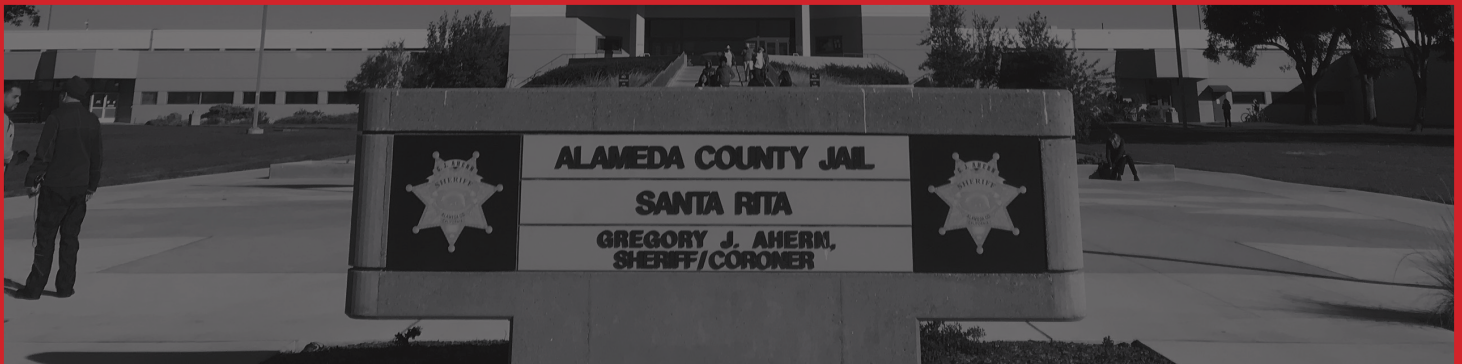
WHILE WELLPATH IS QUICK TO TOUT THEIR SUPPOSED COMPLIANCE WITH CDC GUIDELINES, THEY WERE UNABLE TO STATE WHETHER THEY HAVE ANY SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE FOR PREVENTING ANOTHER MISTAKE LIKE HOUSING UNIT 34.

individual was incorrectly identified as recovered and moved back into the dorm for 30 minutes. He insisted that the exposure was "absolutely minimal." Wellpath and Santa Rita Jail currently do not use a test-based strategy to determine recovery, which is defined not as the absence of symptoms but when someone is no longer infectious. While Wellpath is quick to tout their supposed compliance with CDC guidelines, they were unable to state whether they have any safeguards in place for preventing another mistake like Housing Unit 34.

Just last week, Durbin described the exposure of high-risk patients – who are now undergoing serial testing – as an "unfortunate incident." This is an understatement of the stress and uncertainty that this mass exposure and transfer represents. Multiple callers who are quarantined for serial testing have missed court dates, attorney visits, and mental health appointments. **"Santa Rita doesn't play fair," one caller said. "We get no heads up about what is going to happen. The stress is really taking its toll."**

COVID-19 TESTS AND VACCINATION – TROUBLING LACK OF CONSISTENCY

During this week's Tuesday, January 26 Board of Supervisors meeting, an ACSO Undersheriff reiterated the fact that Santa Rita Jail does not offer universal testing. **"It hasn't been our policy to administer to anyone who asks," he said. "If they're symptomatic...they're offered a test.**



But in many cases, when they're not symptomatic, they won't be tested."

Advocates asked on Friday, 1/29 whether ACSO and Wellpath stand by this statement, and whether they acknowledge that an individual might still be infectious even if they are asymptomatic. Mike Durbin's response was **"If this was stated, it's not correct.**

Much of our testing is of people who are asymptomatic." It is true that Santa Rita may test people who are asymptomatic *when they are booked into the jail*, but **the jail's use of index cases to release Housing Units from quarantine tells a different story – and suppression of testing is leading to repeated quarantines when people who were not tested inevitably present with symptoms.**

On Saturday, January 30, three pods in Housing Unit 34 were released from quarantine after only 2 days – and the unit's previous quarantine happened only five days before. Even if ACSO and Wellpath claim that their protocols are grounded in science, the way that these protocols are implemented would not stand up to scrutiny in other

EVEN IF ACSO AND WELLPATH CLAIM THAT THEIR PROTOCOLS ARE GROUNDED IN SCIENCE, THE WAY THAT THESE PROTOCOLS ARE IMPLEMENTED WOULD NOT STAND UP TO SCRUTINY IN OTHER GROUP SETTINGS LIKE SCHOOLS, NURSING HOMES, OR HOUSEHOLDS WHERE A FAMILY MEMBER HAS BEEN EXPOSED.

group settings like schools, nursing homes, or households where a family member has been exposed.

During Supervisor Valle's Friday, 1/29 conference call at Santa Rita Jail, Wellpath reported that half of their 201-person clinical staff has consented to be vaccinated. There is no penalty for refusing the vaccine. Sworn staff has had a similarly low rate of COVID-19 tests. ACSO Captain Daniel Brodie reported that out of 500 sworn staff who circulate through the jail on an average week, only 43 individuals were tested in the month of January.

VACCINATION UPDATE

Public Health representatives reported that their intention is to vaccinate ACSO staff and incarcerated people simultaneously. For the next six weeks, the county will receive 15,000 tests per week, which must first be apportioned to frontline healthcare workers.

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