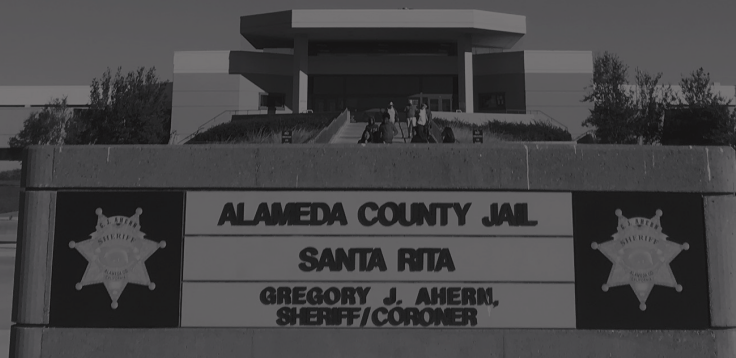


# SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

APRIL 5–APRIL 11, 2021



**STATISTICS AS OF MARCH 28, 2021.**

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

**2160**

**JAIL POPULATION**

**572**

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

**1**

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

**14%**

**OF JAIL POPULATION  
TESTED IN PAST  
WEEK\***

**6**

**HOUSING PODS  
UNDERGOING SERIAL  
TESTING THIS WEEK\***

**0**

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

**11**

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

**6**

**HOUSING PODS  
QUARANTINED THIS  
WEEK\*\***

**89**

**PEOPLE OFFERED  
A VACCINE THIS  
WEEK**

## NOTES ON STATISTICS

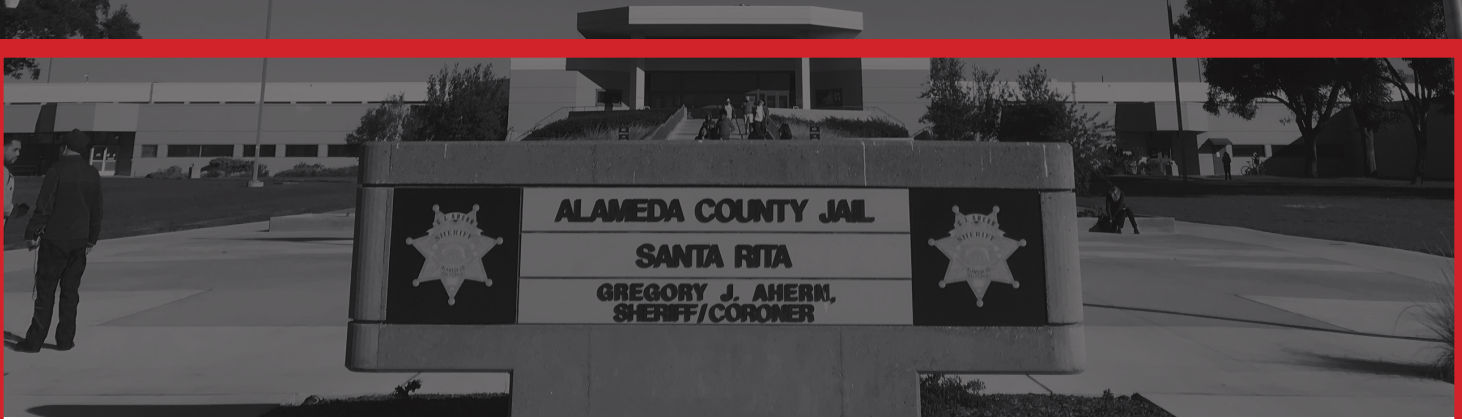
\* Santa Rita Jail's testing rates are currently much higher during previous outbreaks due to the implementation of serial testing. During previous outbreaks, an average of 7-10% of the jail population was tested within any given week. Serial testing means that some individuals will be tested multiple times, with instances occurring every seven days after mass testing. As a result, testing coverage per individual is lower than displayed.

\*\* 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.

For more complete statistics and COVID-19 quarantines, please visit [bit.ly/SRJCOVID-19](https://bit.ly/SRJCOVID-19).

For information about the Santa Rita Jail Hotline, please contact [srjhotline@nlsf.org](mailto:srjhotline@nlsf.org).

For more information about the SRJ Solidarity Weekly Updates and testimony-gathering project, please contact [info@srjsolidarity.org](mailto:info@srjsolidarity.org).



## **SECOND SUICIDE THIS YEAR IN SANTA RITA JAIL**

**O**n Friday, April 2, an individual in a women's unit took her own life. This is the second suicide in Santa Rita Jail in 2021. The first suicide occurred in February in an intake unit. Prior to the beginning of the pandemic, in October 2019, a KTVU investigation reported that at least 17 people had committed suicide since 2014 – most of them people who were held in isolation. ACSO maintains tight control over information about these deaths; the jail has issued no statements nor any further information regarding the death on April 9 and advocates ultimately discovered the information through a joint status report written by attorneys in Babu v. Ahern, a class-action lawsuit regarding mental health care in the jail.

Advocates raised the issue in a Friday, April 9 conference call at Santa Rita Jail with Supervisor Richard Valle, jail commanders, and medical provider Wellpath. **When questioned further about protocol for caring for people with mental illness during the extremely isolating 14-day quarantine period, Supervisor Valle responded that “we**

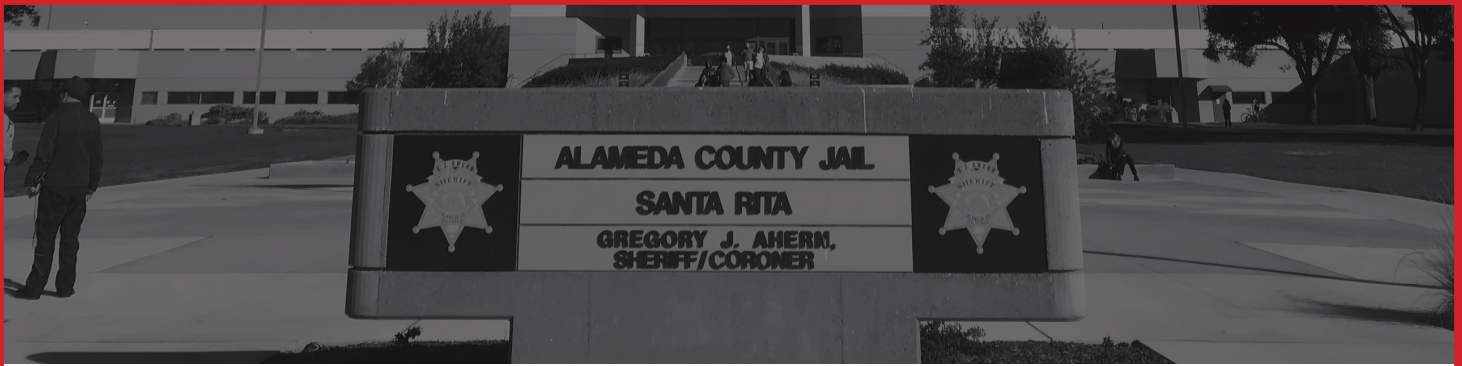
**have a difference of opinion about what is a COVID-related issue.”**

Supervisor Valle's bi-weekly conference calls at the jail were created ostensibly to offer more transparency to advocates about the jail's COVID-19 protocols. One year into the pandemic, COVID-19 is now being used as a blanket excuse, not only to deploy further restrictions and further surveillance against incarcerated people but to avoid transparency and accountability regarding the mental health impacts of prolonged isolation. **To the state, psychological torture of incarcerated people is now justified through the science of infection control.**

During the pandemic, Santa Rita Jail deputies are working mandatory overtime, yet incarcerated people are forced to beg just to get fresh air. And while men can occasionally go out to the big yard, which has exercise equipment, most women in Santa Rita Jail have never seen the big yard. Women recreate in a small yard which has little to no exercise equipment. **The April 2 suicide was in a women's unit – and it is clear that suicide in Santa Rita Jail is linked to COVID-19 restrictions.**

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***ONE YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC, COVID-19 IS NOW BEING USED AS A BLANKET EXCUSE, NOT ONLY TO DEPLOY FURTHER RESTRICTIONS AND FURTHER SURVEILLANCE AGAINST INCARCERATED PEOPLE BUT TO AVOID TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY REGARDING THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF PROLONGED ISOLATION. TO THE STATE, PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE IS NOW JUSTIFIED THROUGH THE SCIENCE OF INFECTION CONTROL.***



## **FILTHY CONDITIONS AND LACK OF PERSONAL HYGIENE**

On Sunday, April 4, Stephanie Navarro called the Hotline to report that **women in Housing Unit 24 – West had not received clean clothing, sheets, or underwear in eight days.** Stephanie reports further that deputies are quick to discipline prisoners for not wearing their uniforms, but are much more lax about enforcing mask policies. Stephanie says that she witnessed a deputy wearing a bandana rather than a mask, which failed to cover his nose and mouth.

On Thursday, April 8, an individual who

was recently released from Santa Rita Jail reported that the **showers in Housing Unit 8 are covered in black mold that looks like “fur growing on the cement.”**

On Sunday, April 11, Eric Wayne called the Hotline to report that **at least three prisoners are still suffering from fungal infections which they developed in the Summer of 2020.** Prisoners link these fungal infections to the showers, which are covered in black mold in HU6 as well as in HU8. During a walkthrough over 8 months ago, prisoners in HU6 asked Captain Luckett-Fahimi to address the issue, but nothing has been done.

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## ***FEATURED TESTIMONY***

*Anonymous is a CDCR prisoner awaiting transfer back to his facility. He has been waiting to return since Summer of 2020 and is concerned that while newly-sentenced people are going to CDCR reception centers, the transport of people who were temporarily moved from CDCR to Santa Rita for resentencing proceedings have been neglected; leaving them unable to access their personal property, community, and education opportunities.*

**“No one [in Santa Rita] is getting a chance to rehabilitate themselves. We can’t take classes or get ready to go out to the streets. There is no opportunity to get milestones, take anger management classes, or get certificates. We’re sitting here stuck in**

**Alameda County waiting for the CDCR transportation department to come get us. It feels like they forgot about us. This is a big problem – a 93-dollars-a-day problem! Santa Rita is profiting off people sitting in Santa Rita Jail.”**

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*To view more testimonies from prisoners, please visit [www.srjsolidarity.org](http://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](https://nlgsf.ourpowerbase.net/SRJ_Hotline_Volunteer_Form)*