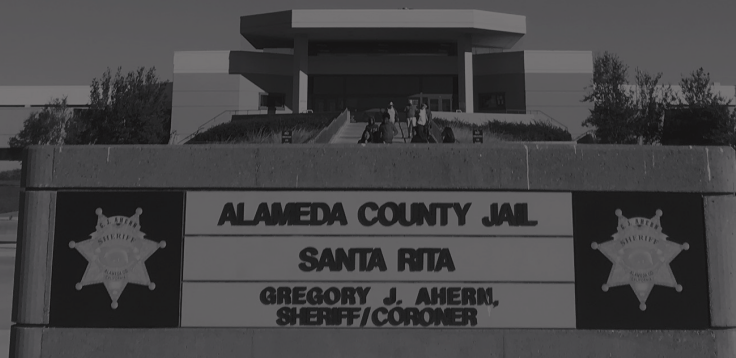


# SANTA RITA JAIL WEEKLY UPDATE

*JULY 5–JULY 11, 2021*



**STATISTICS AS OF JULY 11, 2021.**

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

**2090**

**JAIL POPULATION**

**592**

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

**13%**

**OF JAIL POPULATION  
TESTED IN PAST WEEK**

**0**

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

**26.5%**

**PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED  
POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED\***

**35%**

**PERCENTAGE OF ACSO  
STAFF FULLY VACCINATED\*\***

## **NOTES ON STATISTICS**

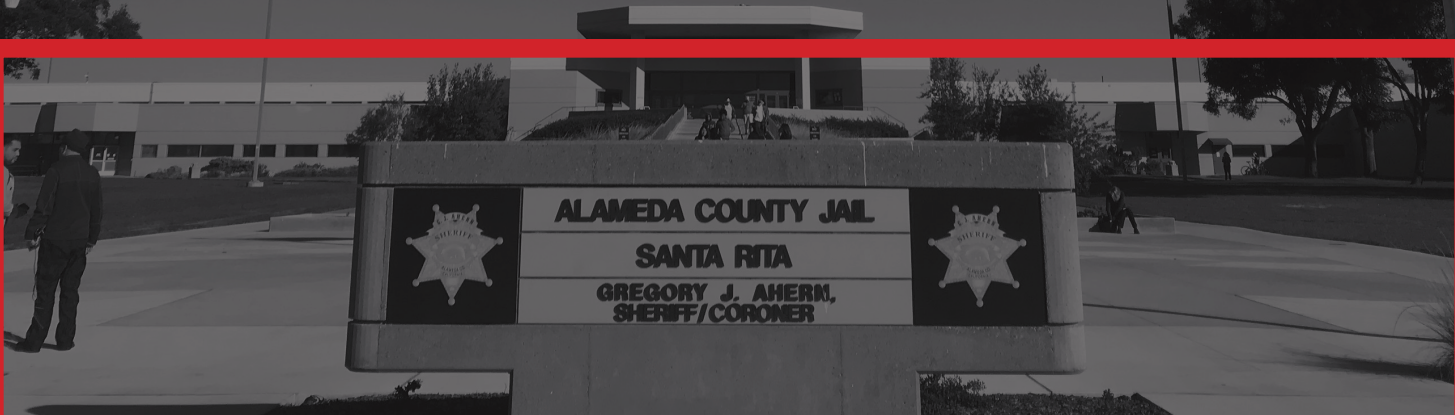
\* Vaccination statistics are reported once per week on Fridays.

\* Via California Immunization Registry (CAIR), which has limited accuracy; the vaccination count retrieved is not specific to custody staff but encompasses all ACSO employees. This statistic may not accurately represent the immunity among those who are primary vectors for outbreaks within the jail.

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@nlgsf.org](mailto:srjhotline@nlgsf.org).

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



## Summary of Hotline Calls, July 5-July 11

- **Two callers** reported ongoing difficulty filing their 2020 taxes.
- **One hotline caller** reported that she was placed in a quarantine unit with another individual who tested positive for COVID-19, despite the fact that there were single cells available to house them separately.
- **One hotline caller** reported that his physical therapy and pain medication, for a debilitating neck injury, were discontinued without warning.

---

## April 9 Conference Call at Santa Rita Jail

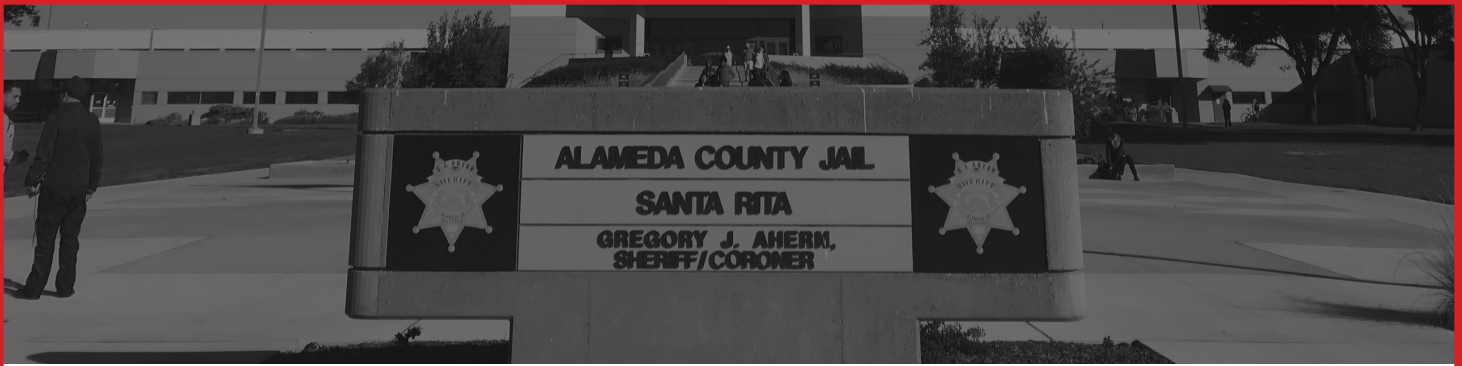
**On Friday, July 9, Supervisor Valle hosted a conference call at Santa Rita Jail with representatives from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), Wellpath, and Public Health.** Major takeaways from this meeting include:

- **There is currently no way to accurately assess how many ACSO staff have been vaccinated.** To obtain the current estimate of 35 percent, data from the California Immunization Registry were cross-referenced with the names of ACSO staff statewide. In order to estimate the number of custody staff who have been vaccinated, Captain Lockett-Fahimi stated that ACSO HR staff would have to cross-reference the names on staff vaccination cards against the CAIR data. "I don't know how helpful that will be," she said.
- **Sheriff Gregory Ahern opposes surveying staff regarding their vaccination status.** "The Sheriff said that vaccination is an individual choice and that he doesn't want to survey individuals," said Commander Tom Madigan, despite Davis Vanguard reporter Aparna Komarla's repeated reminders that her suggestion is simply to ask whether staff have been vaccinated, not why. Commander Yesenia Sánchez informed advocates that there is currently no plan to aggregate vaccination data shared with HR, nor make them available to the public.

---

***"WHEN I TALK TO [DEPUTIES] SIMPLY AND NICELY, I GET IGNORED. IT'S ONLY ONCE I GET VOCAL, START SPEAKING UP FOR MYSELF AND LETTING THEM KNOW WHAT I WANT OR SAYING 'I'M GOING TO CALL [MY LAWYER]' THAT THEY'LL START COMING AROUND AND HELPING ME."***

***- A WOMAN IN HOUSING UNIT 21***



- **A member of the Deputies' Union gave public comment opposing the use of masks.** Advocate John Lindsay-Poland mentioned that a Union representative claimed during a Supervisors' Public Protection meeting that masking is "dangerous" and recommended that Public Health schedule a meeting with the Deputies' Union. Supervisor Valle dismissed his concerns, saying that to claim that there is a current of anti-mask sentiment among custody staff is "overgeneralizing the problem."

---

## **Incarcerated People Still Unable to Access Economic Impact Payments**

**On June 30**, a Hotline caller reported that after filing his taxes, he received a letter from the IRS asking him to verify his identity. Hotline Worker Raquel immediately contacted Santa Rita Jail to request assistance and was informed that SRJ could assist him if the Hotline could send a request by fax.

**Upon faxing the request, the SRJ Hotline was contacted by Inmate Services Officer Dean White. "You know that's not going to happen, right?" he told a Hotline Worker. "There is no way he is going to get his identity verified."** The prisoner in question, currently in Santa Rita for a hearing on a writ of habeas corpus, has been incarcerated for several decades and lacks a bank account,

phone number, or other means of verifying his identity without assistance from the jail.

The Hotline contacted **Bay Area Legal Aid, which confirmed – in contradiction to Officer White's claims – that on April 19th, 2021, the IRS released specific guidelines for jail and prison officials to verify prisoners' identities via email** if the prisoner has received a 4883C, 5071C, 6330C or 6331C identity verification letter.

We are reminded once again that, given the option to assist prisoners or to make changes that will improve their lives, **ACSO will always choose to prioritize the salaries, time, and convenience of their officers over the needs of incarcerated people, to the point of failing to inform staff of critical policy changes.** The SRJ Hotline has also spoken with callers who were never connected with reentry resources prior to their release despite ACSO's promises; we also see sworn staff's low vaccination rate and failure to comply with the mandatory COVID-19 testing order as symptomatic of this disregard for the well-being of incarcerated people, their loved ones, and the broader community.

*If you have a loved one who has had trouble filing their 2020 taxes, accessing their Economic Impact Payment (EIP), or verifying their identity with the IRS, contact [srjhotline@nlgf.org](mailto:srjhotline@nlgf.org) or the SRJ Hotline at (510) 925-4060. We can publish your commentary or work to connect you with Bay Area Legal Aid's Economic Impact Payment Access Team.*