



# NEWS RELEASE

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Media Relations Director

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## UPDATE: COVID-19

This is an update to a news release issued on November 16<sup>th</sup> concerning a COVID-19 event at George Bailey Detention Facility (GBDF). Two housing units, 1A and 1B were tested for COVID-19. All inmates in Module 1A tested negative and are no longer in quarantine. However, four inmates in 1B tested positive and were transferred to isolation units to receive close monitoring. All others tested negative and are completing a 14-day quarantine. Three positive inmates from this incident are currently at local hospitals receiving care.

It was determined an inmate from Module 1C was transferred to the Vista Detention Facility (VDF) prior to the event at GBDF. That inmate and eight others later tested positive and were subsequently transferred to isolation housing units. All other inmates tested negative but remain in quarantine and they will be monitored accordingly.

In an unrelated event, an inmate assigned at the East Mesa Reentry Facility (EMRF) reported to sick call earlier this week with mild respiratory symptoms. EMRF is a low-level facility with dormitory-style housing units. The inmate tested positive for COVID-19 and was transferred to an isolation housing unit. As a precautionary measure, all inmates in nearby housing units were tested and the results confirmed three additional positive results for two dormitories. The inmates with positive results were transferred to isolation housing units and two dormitories are quarantined at this time.

Based on these current COVID-19 impacts, the Detention Services Bureau has returned to a more restrictive environment as described in a [March 27<sup>th</sup> news release](#). This is being done to protect the health of inmates and staff. [In-person social visitation will not be allowed](#) at San Diego County Jails starting Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup>. Video visitation will continue and updates regarding in-person visitation will be posted on our website [www.sdsheriff.net](http://www.sdsheriff.net).

Our Medical Services Division is working closely with the Department of Public Health concerning our ongoing COVID-19 response and clinical trends in support of the contact investigations.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is committed to the safety, security, health and well-being of people in our custody. Visit [www.sdsheriff.net](http://www.sdsheriff.net) and scroll down to our COVID-19 Response section to learn about all the safeguards we have in place to limit the spread of the virus.

To watch videos of safety precautions in our jails visit:

COVID-19 Safety Protocols <https://vimeo.com/411633126>

Keeping our Jails Clean - <https://vimeo.com/411632442>

COVID-19 Testing <https://vimeo.com/434823362>



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