



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Relations Director

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Stepped Up COVID-19 Measures

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is amplifying its COVID-19 protocols to protect inmates and staff. Additional measures are now being implemented to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Earlier this week, inmates at the South Bay Detention Facility began showing flu-like symptoms. Their housing units were quarantined to restrict their movement and monitor their condition. The inmates tested positive for COVID-19 triggering additional testing of other housing units. In total, 54 inmates tested positive for COVID-19. A majority of these inmates were asymptomatic. They were all transferred to isolation units within our system. Isolation separates the inmates with COVID-19 from inmates who are not sick. The inmates are receiving medical care.

In each positive case, a thorough contact investigation is conducted to identify inmates and staff who may have been exposed.

Here are the additional steps we are taking to increase social distancing which will assist in our quarantine and isolation efforts for suspected or positive COVID-19 cases. These measures are similar to the protocols being implemented by other jail and prison systems across the country.

- Restricted movement in seven county jails to reduce the risk of exposure and transmission, other than for critical purposes such as medical procedures
- Implemented modified booking criteria which went into effect on December 4th to reduce the jail population
- No use of common areas
- Non-contact professional visits
- Expanded use of N-95 masks while on duty for staff
- Expansive testing for staff on site

These measures build on many actions we have taken so far to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to employees and people in our custody.

- Contact tracing
- COVID-19 Testing
- Ongoing disinfecting and cleaning at all facilities



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- Quarantine and Isolation Protocols
- No social visits
- No group activities
- Temperature checks
- Virtual Court Hearings
- Masks for inmates and staff
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff
- Handouts, posters and updated video messaging for inmates and staff about COVID-19
- Emphasis on handwashing and good hygiene

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 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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