



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Relations Director

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COVID-19 at George Bailey Detention Facility

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to impact the national and local environment, custody environments continue to be affected as well. Last week, nine inmates presented with mild respiratory symptoms, were tested, and immediately isolated. All were housed within module 1C at our George Bailey Detention Facility. Module 1C is a quad based housing unit, with four separate living areas.




The tests returned positive, which triggered a quarantine and testing for the remainder of the sixty-one inmates in the module. On Saturday, November 14th, we received additional positive test results for forty-six inmates from the affected module. Those who tested positive were transferred to isolation units within our system. Two asymptomatic inmates were released from custody prior to their test results being available and one who remains in custody is currently under care at a local hospital. Fifteen tested negative, but are nevertheless being isolated and monitored due to their exposure. At this time the outbreak is limited to one module, but is the most significant COVID related event to date in our jail system.

The affected module has been emptied and sanitized to hospital standards. It remains empty today. All inmates at the George Bailey Detention Facility will continue to be monitored daily. Sanitation remains a priority for our jail system. Inmates who are concerned about any aspect of their custody stay have resources available to them upon request.

Those moved into isolation are currently in cell style housing units, which allows for less exposure to each other. All have been reviewed by medical staff to determine their individual treatment plan. As a precaution, inmates in the two adjoining housing units, 1A and 1B are under quarantine and are being tested for COVID. In each positive case, a thorough contact investigation is conducted to identify inmates and staff who may have been exposed. Those who test positive are isolated for a minimum of 14 days. If that person is in our custody; they are monitored by Sheriff's medical staff. Legally required release dates are not extended based on positive or pending COVID results. Those released prior to results being available are followed up with by the Department of Public Health.

As our nation continues to respond to COVID, we will evaluate any key information learned as a result of the contact investigations and will adjust accordingly. Our protocols to date



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have been effective for limiting COVID within our jail system. Existing practices at our intake facilities allow for the accommodation of symptomatic inmates at the time of booking. Early in our COVID response we reduced our overall population through a combination of releases and modified booking criteria. Our population has been stable near 4,000, however, consideration will be given to conducting additional releases if necessary as we continue to monitor our population and the COVID-19 pandemic.

We do not underestimate the challenges we face to keep COVID-19 from entering San Diego County Sheriff's Department jails and have taken immediate action to safeguard the lives of people in our custody and those who work in our facilities.

As previously mentioned, continuing measures in response to COVID include:

- Temperature checks for all entering the facilities
- Daily temperature checks of all inmates in custody
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting
- Education and awareness for the inmates
- Identification and isolation of those with symptoms
- Empty housing units are designated for isolation to separate the sick from the healthy
- Masks for inmates and staff, as well as limiting movement at all our jails
- Emphasis on hand washing and good hygiene
- Testing is available for inmates and is conducted at the direction of a medical provider

Our Medical Services Division is working closely with the Department of Public Health concerning our ongoing COVID 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 and scroll down to our COVID-19 Response section to learn about all the safeguards we have in place to limit the spread of 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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