



SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH

For Immediate Release- Media

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Updated Cases of COVID-19

On Saturday, May 23, 2020, an inmate tested positive for COVID-19. The inmate was arrested on numerous felonies on May 9, 2020. He was booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail and housed within one of our nine "14-day Separation Units" established in response to COVID-19. These Separation Units house newly booked inmates in a medically monitored housing unit with restrictions on inmate movement. Inmates in these units receive daily temperature checks and COVID-19 testing opportunities before integration into the larger facility population. The 24 inmates in this exposed Separation Unit were tested for COVID-19 and all came back negative. These inmates will remain housed together and will restart their 14-Day separation period and be tested for COVID-19 before integration into the inmate population.

On Tuesday, May 26, 2020, another inmate tested positive for COVID-19. This inmate was arrested over one year ago on numerous felonies, and continuously housed at the Elmwood Correctional Facility-Minimum Camp. Upon presenting flu-like symptoms, the inmate was immediately rehoused from the minimum camp into a medical unit with a negative airflow isolation cell. Additionally, within 2 hours, all 29 inmates in the housing barracks of the symptomatic inmate were rehoused into isolation cells. All isolated inmates were then tested for COVID-19.

On Wednesday, May 27, 2020, a second inmate from the rehoused barracks tested positive for COVID-19. This inmate was arrested on March 3, 2020 and held on multiple felony domestic violence charges. Upon the positive test, the inmate was also rehoused from the isolation cell into a negative airflow isolation cell.

All three positive inmates are being closely monitored by Custody Health staff. Out of an abundance of caution, Custody Health and the Sheriff's Office have begun testing all 344 inmates on the Minimum Camp for COVID-19. Furthermore, the Sheriff's Office will be testing all employees with potential contact to these inmates.

Our team of diligent investigators from the COVID-19 Investigative Unit (CIU) are actively tracking potential exposures within the jail facilities from the above individuals. CIU conducts "contact tracing" of potential exposures for each employee or inmate who has tested positive for COVID-19. Investigators are utilizing the latest CDC Exposure Guidelines to carefully trace who may have been exposed to COVID-19 positive individuals.

We have taken significant measures throughout our agency to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and we are working closely with Santa Clara County Public Health Department and Custody Health Services to expedite testing for all employees and inmates. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to protecting the health and safety of those in our custody, our staff and our community.