



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Media Release: November 15, 2021 COVID-19 Outbreak in Jail

On November 12th, 2021, several inmates tested positive for COVID-19 at the Santa Cruz County Main Jail. This is the most significant outbreak in our jail since the start of the pandemic. Approximately 12 inmates have tested positive by way of rapid tests and are under quarantine protocol. The rash of cases came to light during routine testing. The inmates who tested positive are either asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. More extensive testing has been completed and we are awaiting the results.

Approximately 35-40 inmates were exposed as well and are under quarantine protocol. Inmates who are under quarantine will continue to receive services. Inmates who test positive will be isolated and monitored by medical staff.

Persons brought into the jail are tested for COVID-19 using a rapid test, a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and are quarantined until they receive a negative test result. Inmates are also offered the COVID-19 vaccine, provided masks, given extra cleaning materials, and encouraged to socially distance. Our correctional officers also go through testing protocols and wear masks for the entirety of their shifts.

Our office is working closely with our medical provider at the jail as well as Santa Cruz County Public Health. We are currently investigating the source of the outbreak as contact tracing is underway. We are committed to ensuring the safety of all 279 inmates at the main jail as well as our staff.

PREPARED BY:
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