



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

Three Inmates and Nine Additional Custody Staff Test Positive for COVID-19

Santa Barbara, Calif. – Three inmates at the Main Jail have tested positive for COVID-19. Two of the inmates were housed in the Jail's general population and 1 of the inmates had been extradite from Arizona and was being held in quarantine. These inmates do not require hospitalization and are being medically isolated in negative air pressure cells. All other inmates housed in their immediate vicinity have been tested and came back as negative for COVID-19.

Nine additional Custody Staff members have been found to be COVID-19 positive. Following the 9 staff COVID-19 cases we reported last week, sweeping testing of all staff assigned to the Main Jail and all inmates has been underway. As of noon today, 322 employees and 155 inmates have been tested. The total number of COVID-19 positive Custody Staff is currently 18, and consists of 8 civilian staff and 10 custody deputies including the Chief Custody Deputy.

None of the civilian staff had contact with inmates. Six of the custody deputies work in administrative roles and do not have routine contact with inmates. The remaining 4 custody deputies did have contact with the inmate population, although none had contact with inmates when they were symptomatic.

We previously indicated that there were 2 deputies assigned to the Santa Barbara Superior Courthouse who were awaiting test results following a possible exposure from a COVID-19 positive court employee. Their tests have returned negative for COVID-19.

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