

Summary of COVID-19 Prevention and Control Plan for County of Santa Clara Jails and Juvenile Facilities

The Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, Custody Health Services Department, and Public Health Department are committed to implementing aggressive measures to prevent and mitigate the incidence of COVID-19 in the County's jails and juvenile facilities to protect detained adults and youth, their families and friends, County staff, and visitors. Leadership from these agencies, known as the "Command Center Committee," meet twice a week to share information and improve measures to manage COVID-19 as they continue to learn more about the disease. They closely monitor any confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases and coordinate with the County Health System, County Executive, and Emergency Operations Center.

The County's practices for stopping the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in custody settings are comprehensive and are updated regularly, including most recently in August 2020.

Procedures for Staff

- The County performs universal COVID-19 testing for staff working in custodial settings.
- All staff, contractors, and any visitors are screened at entry for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff must strictly comply with the State Public Health Officer's and County Health Officer's rules both at and outside of work, including not coming to work when they are sick, wearing a face covering and practicing social distancing both at work and off-duty, and avoiding risky activities outside of work like attending gatherings.

COVID-19 Testing for Adults and Youth in Custody

- **Universal COVID-19 testing is done for everyone in the County's custodial facilities** – for most people, on Day 1 and Day 12 after admission, before they are rehoused from risk management housing into the general population on Day 14.
- Anyone can request retesting if they have not been tested in the past 35 days. Any patient who reports having any symptoms of COVID-19 is also tested. In addition, a COVID-19 test is given before some elective medical procedures, such as dental visits, and additional testing may always be done at the recommendation of a physician.
- Testing of entire housing units or entire custodial facilities is also done upon special recommendation from the Public Health Department.

Procedures for Adults and Youth Entering Custody

- All arrestees booked into custody come in through a single designated entrance where a COVID-19 screening is done, including temperature check and questions about symptoms. If they don't have fever or symptoms, they are provided with a reusable mask if they do not have one. If they do have fever or symptoms, they are immediately required to put on a mask and moved to a single cell for further assessment by a registered nurse.

- **Everyone** newly booked into custody is housed separately from the general population for at least 14 days.
 - Those who have no known exposure to anyone who is COVID-positive and have no symptoms are housed in designated risk management units or a single room for 14 days before being moved into the general population. They are screened every day for symptoms and temperature.
 - Those with **confirmed COVID-19 infection and/or active symptoms** are placed in special isolation or other designated rooms. They must wear a face mask and gloves while outside their room, cannot interact with other inmates, and cannot go to court (except video visits).
 - Every patient with COVID-19 infection is checked by a nurse every 8 hours with symptom review and vital signs measurements, and treated with medications as needed. Those with significant symptoms are transferred to the infirmary with 24/7 nursing presence and are examined by Custody Health physicians, and patients whose condition deteriorates are transferred to Valley Medical Center for a higher level of care.
 - Best practices for infection control do not require positive cases to be isolated from each other due to COVID-19 – they only need to be isolated from anyone who is not infected. Therefore, multiple individuals who test positive for COVID-19 may be housed in isolation units together.
 - Once 14 days have passed since the positive test (or date of symptom onset) **and** the person has been without fever with other symptoms improving for 7 days, then the person can be moved out of the isolation room. Based on national best practices, they should not be, and are not, re-tested before returning to their regular housing unit. Instead, a time-based approach is used to determine how long a person with COVID-19 should be isolated, rather than re-testing to see when they test negative.

Services Provided Upon Release to COVID-Positive Persons

- When anyone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection is released from custody, the County provides support and education to ensure the person can safely isolate at home until they are no longer infectious. If a person does not have a home where they can safely isolate, release is coordinated with the Public Health Department and Office of Supportive Housing to ensure the County assists the person with finding a safe housing placement.

Inmate/Youth Education

- Information is posted throughout the detention facilities and provided to adults and youth in custody about how COVID-19 is transmitted and how to help prevent it from spreading—including the importance of practicing rigorous hand hygiene, covering

coughs, wearing a face covering at all times, and practicing social distancing. Staff regularly remind adults and youth in custody about all these practices.

Safety Rounds

- The Command Center Committee conducts regular safety rounds at the jails and Juvenile Hall to evaluate implementation of COVID-19 infection control practices. During safety rounds, they engage with healthcare and custody staff to do a knowledge check and ensure that staff members understand all the required precautions. Public Health staff also visit custodial facilities.