



# MEDIA RELEASE

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
**Sheriff-Coroner**

5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831) 454-7611 FAX: (831) 454-7608

**Jim Hart**  
Sheriff-Coroner

## **Media Release: December 4, 2020**

### **All Incarcerated Persons' Test Negative for COVID in Santa Cruz County Jail Facilities**

Following several Correctional Officers testing positive for COVID-19, the Sheriff's Office conducted wide-spread testing among all jail staff and incarcerated persons. All incarcerated persons and staff tested negative for COVID-19.

"This outbreak among correctional staff is very concerning. We operate one of the few jails in the country that has not had a COVID-19 outbreak among its incarcerated population. Thankfully, all COVID-19 tests from our remaining staff and incarcerated population have come back negative. Public Health's contact tracers are still working on this incident to determine the origin of the outbreak. Once the contact tracers have completed their investigation my management team will conduct a thorough internal review to determine next steps," said Sheriff Jim Hart.

Upon booking, each individual is tested and housed in a quarantine unit for 14 days. They are tested a second time on the 12<sup>th</sup> day before being moved into general population.

We have implemented weekly testing for all staff and incarcerated persons and will continue to work with Public Health to ensure best practices are met within our facilities.

#### **PREPARED BY:**

Ashley Keehn  
Public Information Officer

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