



SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

NEWS RELEASE

Location: Maguire Correctional Facility, 300 Bradford Street, Redwood City
Maple Street Correctional Facility, 1300 Maple Street, Redwood City

Type of Crime/Incident: Concerns regarding San Mateo County Inmates

Summary:

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has been very aggressive in our management of COVID-19 in our two correctional facilities from the onset of COVID 19. We implemented policies in March, policies that were later recommended by CDC. We also adhere to strict precautionary safety procedures; all staff are always required to wear masks, and inmates must wear masks when they are outside of their cells. We follow the CDC guidelines on social distancing, and we only allow 10 inmates out at a time for recreation to provide adequate social distancing.

As September 1st, we have performed over 1,770 test for COVID-19 on the inmates and have only had 22 positive cases. This positivity rate is 1.2% which is way below the average locally and nationwide. San Mateo County has the lowest number of cases in our correctional facilities. Most of the positive cases are from new arrests that received testing immediately upon booking. Testing that they may not have received otherwise. Our precautions include universal masking for inmates and staff, universal testing at day 1 and day 12 on incarceration and includes quarantine for 14 days for all new arrests. We screen inmates for all movements within and out of the facilities to check for symptoms and includes a temperature check. We have been testing staff on a regular basis as well and will begin mandatory COVID testing this month for all staff as well as with our inmates. I would say that our overall strategy has been effective as some inmates have mentioned that they feel safer to be in jail than be out in the community. Inmates are provided with their own personal 4oz bottle of sanitizer, and new masks when needed. A cleaning company comes into the facilities on a regular basis to sanitize the facility.

The pretrial defendants who are considered "high-risk" for COVID were released in early April; approximately 300 inmates were released in accordance with the Emergency Bail Judicial Council Order.

The county is and has been following the "Emergency Bail Schedule" since April. Subjects arrested for misdemeanor offenses and other non-violent offenses are issued citations.

Inmates are provided with a Communications Tablet which allow inmates to have virtual visits with the family members, attorneys, physicians and others.

Release Date:
September 2, 2020

