



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTRACT EMPLOYEE TESTS COVID-19 POSITIVE AT SANTA MARIA JUVENILE HALL

(SANTA MARIA, CA) – Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman reported that a contract employee assigned to the Santa Barbara Probation Department's Santa Maria Juvenile Hall has notified the Department they tested positive for COVID-19.

The Probation Department has a comprehensive COVID-19 Management Plan that addresses this situation, including temperature and health questionnaire screening prior to entering the facility and directives advising staff not to come to work ill. In this case, the contract employee experienced symptoms and was tested at a drive-up community site. They then notified the Department that their test was positive. Testing of other contract employees has returned negative results. Several Probation staff who had contact with the employee are being tested as well. Contact tracing revealed no youth were exposed.

The Probation Department remains focused on and responsive to the mental and physical well-being of youth and staff during this challenging and stressful situation, and are taking steps to ensure their wellness. The Department is continuing to make decisions based on best practices in health and safety standards for the youth under their care, their officers, and the community. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department website at <https://publichealthsb.org/> for more information on COVID-19.

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For more information about the County of Santa Barbara Probation Department, go to www.sbprobation.org.