



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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STAFF ASSIGNED TO SANTA MARIA JUVENILE HALL TESTS COVID-19 POSITIVE

(SANTA MARIA, CA) – Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman reported today that a staff assigned to the Santa Barbara Probation Department’s Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) tested positive for COVID-19.

The Probation Department has a comprehensive COVID-19 Management Plan that addresses this situation. This staff had not been at work since December 15, 2020. While they were away from work, the staff was exposed to someone who tested positive and subsequently were tested by their personal physician, which also returned positive.

Since the staff has not been to work for a time greater than the normal 14-day infectious period, there is no need to conduct contact tracing within the facility or additional testing as there is no possible exposures to staff or youth. The Department has communicated the incident to the Public Health Department.

The Probation Department remains focused on being responsive to the mental and physical well-being of youth, staff and contractors during this challenging and stressful situation, and is 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. For more information about the County of Santa Barbara Probation Department, go to www.sbprobation.org.

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