



## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**(SANTA MARIA, CA)** – Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman reports that one staff member 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. The Department was notified by a staff assigned to SMJH they received a positive test result for COVID-19. The staff tested on January 26, 2021, with their personal physician and last worked on January 25, 2021. As a precaution, in coordination with the Public Health Department and the facility’s medical unit, the Department conducted contact tracing of staff and youth for potential exposure. All youth and staff have tested negative.

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](http://www.sbprobation.org).

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