



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

117 E. Carrillo St., • Santa Barbara, CA 93101

www.countyofsb.org/probation

(805) 882-3700 • FAX (805) 882-3767

PRESS RELEASE

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News Media Contact:

Karyn Milligan

Public Information Officer

(805) 882-3653

kmillig@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

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

(SANTA MARIA, CA) – Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman reported today 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. In this case, on January 30, 2021, the Department was notified by a staff assigned to SMJH they received a positive test result for COVID-19. The staff tested on January 27, 2021, with their personal physician and last worked on January 19, 2021. As a precaution, in coordination with the Public Health Department and the facility's medical unit, the Department conducted contact tracing and identified staff have been are being contacted to test. No youth were exposed.

The Probation Department is transitioning to a COVID-19 update chart which is readily available on the Department's website. For future updates on individuals and youth testing positive at one of the Probation Department's custody facilities, please refer to the document located under Media Resources on the Probation Department website at www.sbprobation.org.

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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