



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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**PAUL MIYAMOTO
SHERIFF**

For Immediate Release
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April SF Jail Release was Negative Returns to Jail and Tests Positive

San Francisco Sheriff Paul Miyamoto said today that a person who had previously tested negative for COVID-19, and was released to the community in April, has returned to jail less than two weeks later on separate charges and has now tested positive. This is the fourth time since January 2020 that the subject has been booked into custody.

“Fortunately, this individual is in isolation and has not had contact with our incarcerated population,” said Sheriff Miyamoto. “We face additional challenges when people are released and return over and over. The threat of community spread spilling into our jails is constant and demands the utmost vigilance on our part to keep COVID-19 out of our jails. ”

This is the third person who has tested positive for COVID-19 at booking. All three have been asymptomatic. The Sheriff's Office follows a strict set of protocols to minimize new arrestee contact with staff and the incarcerated population. Emergency actions taken include:

- Testing newly-arrested people for COVID-19 before they enter the intake and release center and are subsequently booked.
- Quarantining newly-arrested people in County Jail #2 to minimize contact with incarcerated people at County Jails #4 and #5.
- Maintaining social distancing among the people in custody by reducing the jail count.
- Suspending county jail visits on March 13, 2020 to protect people in our custody
- Following the Judicial Council's \$0 bail emergency order.
- Expediting early releases through the courts and working with our community partners to identify housing for people who are homeless.
- Cleaning and sanitization of jail cells and common areas multiple times per day.
- Screening all employees with temperature checks and questionnaires prior to allowing them to enter work facilities.

During March 2020, the Sheriff's Office reported five positive cases of COVID-19 among staff. No other staff have tested positive thus far.

The **San Francisco Sheriff's Department** serves the people of San Francisco by administering the county jails, providing security for the Superior Court and other high-profile public buildings, and performing civil court orders. Led by elected Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, the Sheriff's Department employs more than 850 sworn staff and almost 200 non-sworn employees.

Jail Health Services is a section of the San Francisco Health Network of the Department of Public Health that is dedicated to the health care of incarcerated adults in San Francisco. Jail Health Services employs 162 nurses, nurse practitioners, doctors, behavioral health clinicians, dentists and support staff.