



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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**PAUL MIYAMOTO  
SHERIFF**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, July 17, 2020

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ASYMPTOMATIC SHERIFF'S BAILIFF TESTS POSITIVE CONTACT TRACING UNDERWAY**

San Francisco, CA -- San Francisco Sheriff Paul Miyamoto said today that a Sheriff's Deputy assigned to the Hall of Justice Courts as a bailiff had tested positive for COVID-19.

The deputy was asymptomatic and had followed department safety protocols at work including wearing a face mask, practicing social distancing and frequent hand washing. As the City recommends, the deputy tested for COVID in San Francisco. The individual received a positive result yesterday evening, July 16.

"The virus is surging again so this is not completely surprising," said Sheriff Miyamoto. "What's critical is that we not only follow CDC guidelines to prevent COVID, but that we also share information as soon as someone tests positive so we can track any potential exposures and prevent further spread."

The Sheriff's Office (SFSO) notified its justice partners including Superior Court Judge Loretta Giorgi, the supervising judge of the court's criminal division; District Attorney Chesa Boudin; and Public Defender Manohar Raju. The Sheriff's Office began a contact tracing investigation immediately to identify any person who may have been exposed to the Deputy Sheriff.

This is the seventh Sheriff's employee who has tested positive for COVID. Five staff tested positive in March 2020. One staff member tested positive in early July after being exposed to COVID while traveling out of state and has not returned to work.

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**Asymptomatic Sheriff's Bailiff Tests Positive**

Jail Health Services, a section of the Department of Public Health, began testing new arrestees on April 12 prior to their being booked and housed in San Francisco county jail. To date, 24 people -- all asymptomatic -- have tested positive for COVID and were isolated while they stayed in custody. Only three of the 24 remain in custody and have since recovered. All others have been released.

Recently, Jail Health Services quarantined 25 people in San Francisco county jail after a possible exposure. Among those individuals, there are 12 people who remain in custody. They have all tested negative three times and were released from quarantine today. There are currently no known COVID cases in county jail.

"Our strict testing and jail housing protocols have ensured that justice-involved people who test positive remain isolated while in custody and get the support they need when they are released," said Sheriff Miyamoto. "But this virus is wily and will look for a wormhole. We can't let our guard down for one minute."

Led by elected Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, the San Francisco Sheriff's Office administers the county jails, provides safety services for the Superior Court and other high-profile public buildings, and carries out civil court orders. The Sheriff's Office employs more than 850 sworn staff and almost 200 non-sworn employees. Approximately 70 percent of SFSO's sworn workforce are people of color.

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