

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

70 W. Hedding Street, East Wing, 11th Floor
San Jose, California 95110



April 22, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: Ky Le, Deputy County Executive ^{DS} kl
Nick Birchard, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Tim Davis, Assistant Sheriff
Eureka C. Daye, PhD., MPH, MA, CCHP, Director, Custody Health Services
Vit Kraushaar, MD, MPH, Assistant Public Health Officer

SUBJECT: Protocols to Prevent Transmission of COVID-19 in Custody Settings – Report #5

This is the Administration's fifth off-agenda report regarding efforts to reduce and prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in Main Jail, the Elmwood Correctional Facility (Elmwood), Juvenile Hall and the William F. James Ranch (James Ranch). The last report was submitted on February 12, 2021.

1. Levels of Transmission.

- a. **Main Jail and Elmwood.** Since February 12, 2021, transmission of COVID-19 among adults in Main Jail and Elmwood has remained low. On February 11, 2021, there were four active cases. On April 11, 2021, there were no active cases among adults. Between February 15, 2021, and April 11, 2021, active cases among adults ranged between zero and three. Of note, since mid-February, all new active cases were among newly booked inmates.

Among the Sheriff's Custody Bureau (Custody Bureau) and Custody Health Services (CHS) staff assigned to Main Jail or Elmwood, there have been five positive test results between February 12, 2021, and April 11, 2021. Three of the positive test results were identified through daily antigen tests; two positive results were reported when employees were tested by their providers or in the community.

- b. **Juvenile Hall and James Ranch.** Transmission of COVID-19 among staff and youth at Juvenile Hall and James Ranch has also remained low. There has not been an active case among Probation Department (Probation) institutional staff since February 10, 2021. The last active case among youth was on March 19, 2021. Between February 12, 2021, and April 11, 2021, only one CHS staff

member tested positive for COVID-19. Fortunately, the staff member took advantage of the daily antigen testing at Main Jail, and exposure to other staff or youth was limited.

2. Surveillance Testing Programs.

- a. **Youth.** Youth at Juvenile Hall and James Ranch are tested every two weeks using PCR tests. From mid-February through early April 11, 100% of youth participated in biweekly tests.
- b. **Adults.** Despite encouragement by CHS and Custody Bureau staff, adult inmates' willingness to participate in surveillance testing has remained low. During the last testing period at Main Jail, only 37% of adults agreed to participate. During Elmwood's last testing period, only 11% of adults agreed to participate. Fortunately, regular testing of staff and quarantine procedures for newly admitted adults has kept active cases low at Main Jail and Elmwood. While compliance among adults remains low, the Administration will continue the surveillance testing program because it is part of a multi-layered approach to keeping everyone safe.
- c. **Staff.** Regular testing of asymptomatic staff remains a critical strategy to prevent transmissions. Table 1 summarizes the frequency and status of surveillance testing programs. The table summarizes the testing frequency and type for the various staff groups. Testing compliance for most staff groups has increased or remained high. The CHS Director has identified deficient areas and is working with her subordinate managers to implement corrective actions.

Table 1 – Staff Testing

Site / Population	Testing Frequency	Compliance
Main Jail & Elmwood – Custody Bureau & Other Staff ¹	Daily / Weekly Antigen Tests	99%
Main Jail & Elmwood – CHS (Unvaccinated) Staff ²	Daily Antigen Tests	54%
Main Jail & Elmwood – CHS (Vaccinated) Staff ³	Weekly Antigen Tests	89%
Juvenile Hall & James Ranch – Probation & Other Staff ⁴	Biweekly PCR/Antigen Tests	91%
Juvenile Hall & James Ranch – CHS Staff ⁵	Weekly Antigen Tests	92%

3. **Staff Vaccinations.** All staff assigned to the four carceral/detention facilities are eligible for vaccines. Staff may be vaccinated by Employee Health, by their own providers, or at one of the County-operated vaccine

¹ Average daily compliance from March 29, 2021, through April 11, 2021, among Custody Bureau sworn and civilian staff, Department of Corrections staff, and certain Pre-Trial Services staff.

² Average daily compliance from March 29, 2021, through April 11, 2021, among CHS staff who have not been vaccinated.

³ CHS staff at Main Jail and Elmwood who have been vaccinated receive weekly antigen tests. The compliance rate reflects the average over two 7-day periods from March 29, 2021, through April 11, 2021.

⁴ Average over the last two full reporting periods (March 8-21 and March 22 – April 4) among Probation sworn and civilian staff and behavioral health contractors.

⁵ CHS staff at Juvenile Hall and James Ranch receive weekly antigen tests. The compliance rate reflects the average over two 7-day periods from March 29, 2021, through April 11, 2021.

clinics. Through April 16, 2021, Custody Bureau and Probation staff could also have used the vaccination clinic for first responders, public safety, and certain other personnel. Using offsite vaccination clinics has not been a barrier to staff receiving vaccinations. All departments and divisions have worked with the Public Health Department (Public Health) to develop and disseminate informational material to staff. The materials include a recorded question and answer session with the County's Deputy Public Health Officer. However, vaccination rates among Custody Bureau and Probation staff have remained consistent with previous verbal reports.

Table 2 – Staff Vaccinations⁶

	CHS	Custody Bureau	Probation	Pre-Trial Services	Dpt. of Corrections
Approximate Filled Positions	403	1,023	313	31	96
Received at Least One Dose	268	562	168	27	66
In-Process (e.g., appt. scheduled)	68	TBD	2	0	TBD
Declined Vaccine, Declined to Disclose or Unknown	135	461	143	4	30
% Vaccinated or In-Process	83%	55%	54%	87%	69%
% Declined Vaccine / Declined to Disclose or Unknown	17%	45%	46%	13%	31%

4. **Youth and Adult Vaccinations.** CHS began vaccinating some adults in February but vaccine inventory was significantly constrained until March 18, 2021, when the County was able to allocate 2,000 single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccines for the County's four carceral/detention facilities. To the extent that adults, youth, or family members are hesitant about receiving the vaccine because of their mistrust of County staff, the departments are working with Public Health to implement programs in which community advocates or persons with similar lived experiences engage with hesitant adults, youth, and/or family members.
 - a. **Youth.** CHS has administered vaccines to 51 individuals, some of whom have been discharged. CHS offers the vaccine to all newly admitted youths who are eligible for the vaccine. On any given day, there are between 75 and 80 youths at Juvenile Hall and James Ranch. Please note that approximately 18% of youth are 15 years old or younger. CHS has offered vaccines to all eligible youth, but 26% of eligible youth or their parents/guardians declined the vaccine.
 - b. **Adults.** CHS has offered the vaccine to all eligible adults, including newly admitted adults who are quarantining for 14 days. About 50% of adults have declined the vaccine. As of April 13, 2021, CHS has administered at least one dose to 966 adults and is working to administer the vaccine to an additional 177 adults who have signed consent forms.

⁶ Custody Bureau and Probation numbers include sworn and civilian staff.

- 5. Restoring Programs.** Some programs and services are still conducted remotely. Custody Bureau and Probation have been consulting with Public Health to restore all in-person services as quickly as possible. Safely restoring in-person programs is dependent on having a multi-layered risk mitigation strategy that incorporates vaccinations, testing, masking, social distancing, and contact tracing and isolation or quarantining procedures if needed. Regardless of the site or program, masking, and social distancing at least six feet will always be required. To the extent possible, programs will be conducted outdoors or indoors with windows and doors open.
- a. **Youth.** Youth in Juvenile Hall and James Ranch continue their schooling through the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). On April 5, 2021, in-person classes with SCCOE staff resumed. Staff from SCCOE are required to participate in on-site surveillance testing programs. Services, such as substance use counseling services and vocational services provided by community-based organizations, are still conducted remotely. If the vaccine inventory holds up, Probation expects all services will be provided in-person by mid-June.
 - b. **Adults.** Currently, approximately 30 different courses are being conducted remotely. Custody Bureau anticipates restoring all in-person services by the beginning of September. All instructors and providers must participate in onsite testing programs. Since Main Jail and Elmwood have a daily antigen testing program, certain in-person services may be re-introduced before instructors are fully vaccinated. So long as cases remain low, the Administration will try to balance risk mitigation strategies with the need to support the morale, well-being, and successful transition of adults.

CC: Chief Board Aides
 Laurie Smith, Sheriff, County of Santa Clara
 Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer
 James Williams, County Counsel
 Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board
 Deputy County Executives
 Rene Santiago, Director Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System
 Sara Cody, M.D., Director, Public Health Department and Public Health Officer
 Laura Garnette, Chief Probation Officer