	William D. Gore, Sheriff	(858) 974-2259
	San Diego County Sheriff's Department – Media Relations	
	Lt. Ricardo Lopez, Media Relations Director	www.SDSheriff.net

March 26, 2020

SHERIFF'S NURSE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

A nurse who works at the Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility in Santee tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, March 25th. The nurse has been isolated at home since March 22nd after feeling ill. This is all the information we can provide about the nurse because of medical privacy laws.


San Diego County Sheriff's Department Detention Services Bureau has identified all inmates and staff who may have come into close contact with this nurse. Clinical face to face interactions between this nurse and inmates were done with the nurse wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **no** inmates who had contact with this nurse are currently in isolation.

Per CDC guidelines and in consultation with County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), nine employees are considered at a low exposure risk. As of March 26th, and out of an abundance of caution, these employees were told to self-quarantine at home. Sheriff's Medical Liaison Unit will be following up with these employees to make sure they have all the resources they need.

Out of the more than 4,300 Sheriff's Department employees, 31 have reported flu-like symptoms and have self-quarantined. In addition to the nurse, two others have undergone testing under orders of their medical provider. Those two results are pending.

Our jails continue to undergo comprehensive regular cleaning and disinfecting. The Sheriff's Department instituted measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. They include suspending jail visits, releasing inmates who have 30 days or less remaining in their sentence, enhanced medical screening at booking, as well as designating bed spaces for quarantine, among others. To date, we have 168 beds available for isolation purposes. There are more isolation cells available at several facilities.

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The Sheriff's Department has implemented safeguards to ensure the health and well-being of employees. We have been providing comprehensive education to staff on how to reduce chances of exposure and infection. We are continually updating communications with employees to include the latest best practices for combating the virus through training bulletins, signage at Sheriff's facilities and daily updates via email. We have implemented social distancing, virtual meetings, working from home, as well as paused non-essential meetings, travel and training. We have hand sanitizers, cleaning wipes and disposable gloves readily available to employees.

To date, **no** inmate has tested positive for COVID-19 in San Diego County Jails.

This is a developing situation and we will provide updates as information becomes available.

As of March 26, 2020:

Number of inmates in quarantine: 26

Number of inmates tested for COVID-19 on orders of medical provider: 33

Number of inmates tested positive: 0

Number of inmates tested negative: 25

Number of pending test results: 8

To learn more about all the steps being taken to keep everyone in our custody safe and healthy, visit www.sdsheriff.net and explore our COVID-19 section.

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