

County of Santa Clara

Office of the Sheriff

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MEMORANDUM

Laurie Smith
Sheriff

TO : All Personnel

FROM : Laurie Smith, Sheriff 

SUBJECT : COVID-19 Update & Exposure Tracing

DATE : April 2, 2020

I want to express my continued appreciation to all staff – professional and sworn - for your committed public service during this unprecedented moment we are facing together. The rapid speed of adaptation by our agency has only been possible because of all of you.

This global pandemic is an unrepresented public health emergency and one that law enforcement agencies have never faced. In the coming days and weeks, you will see further change to our essential operations. Life is unprecedented right now, and our response will need to be adaptable, which will likely include cross-training and other unconventional staffing approaches. I truly appreciate the professionalism being displayed by our personnel and the creative and innovative solutions being adopted.

One example of an innovative idea is the COVID-19 Investigative Unit (CIU). CIU is a team assembled of Enforcement and Custody Personnel who are proactively tracking COVID-19 exposures among staff, the public, and others in order to ensure the protection of our staff. This unit has worked to perform “contact tracing” of potential exposures for each of the employees and others who have tested positive for COVID-19. As part of their investigative process they have carefully traced who may have had exposure to that individual while coordinating with the HIP Coordinator and following the latest CDC Exposure Guidelines.

Our planning processes are fluid and will be developed to be scalable based on the direction of this virus when balanced with public safety needs. We continually appreciate the input, suggestions and ideas on how to continue to provide our high-quality services.

We recognize that we cannot provide services unless we first protect those who serve. Thank you for continued service during these very difficult times.

Stay safe - stay well!