



San Diego County Sheriff's Department - Media Relations Office

# NEWS RELEASE

Bill Gore, Sheriff

## The Importance of 7-Day Quarantine When Booked Into County Jails

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sheriff's Medical Services incorporated protocols to screen all inmates at intake. Inmates may refuse testing for COVID-19, however it is highly encouraged. Education and counseling are provided upon screening. During the intake screening process, all inmates are evaluated for the inmate safety program and any other mental health needs. They are triaged and referred accordingly, regardless of the need for quarantine housing.

All newly arrested inmates will be quarantined for the first seven days in 7-Day Quarantine Housing where they are monitored daily by medical staff for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Once the inmate is cleared from the 7-Day quarantine, the Jail Population Management Unit and the Medical Services Division will coordinate the movement of inmates to regular housing based on their classification.

To limit exposure during the quarantine period, small groups (approximately five to seven inmates) that were booked on the same day are established. Each group is allowed a minimum of 30 minutes of dayroom (common area) time on a rotational basis, during which they can shower, utilize the telephone and watch television. Depending on the number of groups currently in the quarantine housing module, the groups may have additional opportunities or extended times for dayroom.

Common areas (including seating/tables, phones, showers) are cleaned/disinfected frequently. Inmates also have the ability to purchase snacks, toiletries and other items. Inmates in quarantine can request medical and/or mental health services by contacting a deputy, completing a request form or speaking with the nurse at their housing unit. If the inmate expresses concern they may be experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms, medical staff is notified immediately. Medical and mental health services are available regardless of quarantine status.

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