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8
9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10 COUNTY OF MARIN
11

12
13 In re

14 IAN MICHAEL HALL, et al.,
15 DONIOUS SOMMONS, et al.,
16 DONTAYE HARRIS, et al.

17 Petitioners,

18 **On Habeas Corpus.**

**SAN QUENTIN CONSOLIDATED WRIT
PROCEEDING GROUP 1-3**

Case Nos. SC212933, et al.

Case Nos. SC213244, et al.

Case Nos. SC213534, et al.

**RESPONDENT'S BRIEF REGARDING
EFFECTS OF *VON STAICH* DECISION**

Date: November 30, 2020

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Judge: The Hon. Geoffrey M. Howard

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(01-cv-1351-JST) 6, 8, 10, 13

Plata v. Newsom
(N.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2020) 445 F.Supp.3d 557 8

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 This Court should stay the proceedings here until the *Von Staich* decision is final.
3 Respondent is seeking review of the Court of Appeal’s decision and, pending finality of the
4 decision, this Court is not compelled by *Von Staich* to take any action. Indeed, absent a binding
5 decision, this Court taking any action would necessarily result in wasted resources. This Court
6 should instead allow the Court of Appeal decision to be fairly adjudicated, while CDCR continues
7 working with the federal Receiver to offer alternative housing to medically high risk inmates.
8 Even when the *Von Staich* decision becomes final, this Court should not decide the remedy for
9 each individual petitioner because the Court of Appeal made clear this Court must defer to CDCR
10 regarding how it will reduce San Quentin’s population.

11 **PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

12 **I. HALL LITIGATION**

13 This Court consolidated 311¹ habeas corpus petitions from petitioners previously or
14 currently housed at San Quentin. Petitioners allege their continued incarceration at San Quentin
15 during the COVID-19 pandemic violates their right to be free from cruel and/or unusual
16 punishment because the prison cannot safely house them without reducing the population by 50
17 percent. To address this claim, this Court intended to hold an evidentiary hearing in three phases.
18 The first phase would address the underlying substantive constitutional claim; the second phase
19 would address the petitioners’ individual circumstances; and the third phase would address the
20 remedies. On the eve of the first phase of the evidentiary hearing, the First District Court of
21 Appeal issued a decision in *In re Von Staich* (Oct. 20, 2020, A160122) 56 Cal.App.5th 53 [2020
22 WL6144780, at *1] (*Von Staich*), in which a single prisoner at San Quentin alleged the same
23 cruel and/or unusual punishment claim as the petitioners do here. This Court vacated the
24 evidentiary hearing and directed the parties to brief the effect the *Von Staich* decision has on the
25 current litigation.

26 ////

27 _____
28 ¹ Approximately 15 petitioners have either paroled or are no longer housed at San
Quentin, and their petitions are therefore moot for the purpose of providing a remedy.

1 **II. VON STAICH DECISION**

2 The Court of Appeal held that CDCR and the Warden of San Quentin were deliberately
3 indifferent to the risk of substantial harm to Von Staich, in light of his age and medical
4 conditions, by failing to reduce the San Quentin population by half, as recommended by public
5 health experts. (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL6144780, at *15-16.) The court directed San
6 Quentin to reduce its population to 1,775 prisoners through releases or transfers and noted its
7 remedy would apply equally to all similarly situated prisoners at San Quentin. (*Id.* at *17, 19.)
8 The court declared that CDCR had sole discretion, without interference from the court or Von
9 Staich, to determine how to best effectuate the population reduction. (*Id.* at *17-18.) The court
10 directed the parties to bring “[a]ny dispute that may arise regarding application of [the decision] .
11 . . . to the Marin County Superior Court.” (*Id.* at *19.)

12 **III. PETITIONERS’ CONTENTIONS**

13 Petitioners assert that *Von Staich* is binding on the parties here, acknowledge the decision is
14 not yet final, but contend this Court should still “proceed to the next phase of these proceedings:
15 determining the appropriate remedy for petitioners.” (Petr.’ Opening Br. at pp. 4-6.)
16 Specifically, petitioners contend this Court should determine the remedy for each individual
17 petitioner, the remedy should be release, and this Court should not absolutely defer to CDCR in
18 fashioning a remedy because transfers are neither an effective nor safe way to reduce the
19 population by 50 percent. (See generally Petr.’ Opening Br.)

20 As explained below, this Court should hold the proceedings in abeyance until *Von Staich* is
21 final. But when that decision becomes final, this Court should still decline petitioners’ invitation
22 to decide individual petitioner remedies because CDCR, in conjunction with the federal Receiver,
23 should decide how to reduce San Quentin’s population.

24 **ARGUMENT**

25 **I. THIS COURT SHOULD NOT ADDRESS THE REMEDIES FOR INDIVIDUAL PETITIONERS**
26 **AND SHOULD HOLD THE PROCEEDINGS IN ABEYANCE UNTIL THE REMITTITUR IN**
VON STAICH ISSUES.

27 Petitioners contend this Court should continue addressing the remedy for individual
28 petitioners while *Von Staich* is pending, and order the release of any or all of the 311 petitioner-

1 prisoners. (Petr.' Opening Br. at p. 6.) As discussed below, it would be improper for this Court
2 to decide every petitioner is entitled to release. In addition to following the appellate court's
3 directive not to insert itself into CDCR's business of running its prisons, this Court should not
4 take any immediate action because the *Von Staich* decision is not final. CDCR's petition for
5 review is being filed today, November 16. On its own motion, the California Supreme Court
6 initially extended its time to whether to grant or deny review until February 17, 2021. (*In re Von*
7 *Staich* (Oct. 27, 2020, S265173), citing Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.512(c).) Waiting fewer than
8 three months to proceed with litigation in its natural posture is preferable to wasting judicial and
9 State resources and inserting this Court into the minutiae of prison operations *Von Staich*
10 denounced. (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL 6144780, at *17.)

11 Indeed, the federal Receiver has proposed that CDCR offer over 8,000 high risk medical
12 patients living in dorms the opportunity to move into a single cell, and CDCR is working with the
13 Receiver to facilitate those movements when approved by appropriate public health and
14 corrections experts. (Exh. 1, *Plata v. Newsom* (01-cv-1351-JST) Nov. 4, 2020 J. Case
15 Management Statement, at p. 15.)² The petitioners' counsel in *Plata* acknowledge that large
16 percentages of medically vulnerable inmates have declined offers to move from dorms to cells.
17 (Exh. 2, *Plata v. Newsom* (01-cv-1351-JST) Oct. 20, 2020 J. Case Management Statement, at p.
18 13³.) Such refusals, however, do not entitle petitioners to an individual remedies determination,
19 much less release from prison.

20 This Court also does not gain any advantage by addressing individual petitioner remedies
21 while *Von Staich* is pending. It is not certain *Von Staich* will remain good law; therefore,
22 addressing individual remedies is premature and imprudent. For example, the appellate court
23 granted relief for all similarly situated prisoners as San Quentin. (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL
24 6144780, at *17.) But even assuming the decision stands, the requisite population reduction does

25 _____
26 ² Only 15 percent of the high-risk inmates with COVID-19 risk scores of 11 and above
27 accepted an intra-institution transfer to close-cell-front housing, despite the move intending to
28 primarily benefit the inmate. (Petr.' Opening Br., Exh. 9, Oct. 21, 2020 Transferring COVID-19
High-Risk Patients to Safer Housing, at p. 9.)

³ In exhibits 1 and 2, respondent cites to the original pagination of the document.

1 not necessarily reflect that the 311 petitioner-prisoners,⁴ rather than 1,026 different prisoners, are
2 the prisoners who should be removed from San Quentin. Nor should this Court attempt to make
3 that decision. (*Ibid.*)

4 The salient point the Court of Appeal made regarding the remedy for the purported
5 constitutional violation was that CDCR has complete discretion and control over how to provide
6 the relief granted. (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL 6144780, at *18 [“Respondents are free to
7 employ the means they determine will most quickly achieve the necessarily population
8 reduction”].) Allowing petitioners to present a litany of information to this Court about who is
9 most worthy of being removed from San Quentin contradicts the appellate court’s correct
10 conclusion that courts are not the appropriate entity to review scientific facts. (*Id.* at *17.)

11 Likewise, there is no need for petitioners to identify those who are over age 60, eligible for
12 parole, and have served at least 25 years of their sentences, or who are high risk to due to medical
13 condition or age, for the purpose of deciding who is most worthy of a remedy.⁵ (*Von Staich,*
14 *supra*, 2020 WL 6144780, at *18.) And doing so is contrary to *Von Staich*: the appellate court
15 directed CDCR to expand its early release programs to include inmates over age 60, eligible for
16 parole, and who have served at least 25 years of their sentence for a violent offense only if CDCR
17 could not otherwise reduce the population of San Quentin to no more than 1,775 inmates. (*Id.* at
18 *19.) There has been no showing here that, if required, CDCR could not achieve the requisite
19 reduction without including those identified inmates into the early release programs. Moreover,
20 identifying those inmates is unnecessary because, beginning January 1, 2021, inmates aged 50 or
21 over who have served at least 20 years on their sentence will be eligible for elderly parole
22 consideration, which is the early release program the appellate court addressed. (Stats. 2020, ch.
23 334 (AB 3234) [extending elderly parole program to those 50 and older who have served
24 minimum of 20 years].)

25 ⁴ This Court recently issued two orders identifying a total of 200 additional petitioners
26 and extending this Court’s time to December 18, 2020, and January 8, 2021, respectively, to issue
an order to show cause in those cases.

27 ⁵ Petitioners prepared a chart in response to this Court’s November 9, 2020 order,
28 categorizing the relevant prisoners based on age, years incarcerated, and medical and mental
health concerns. Respondent will review the chart and provide a response, if necessary, no later
than November 23, 2020.

1 More importantly, all evidence reflects that, despite the alleged lack of physical distancing,
2 San Quentin is well-able to maintain the safety and security of its prisoners. Between August 27
3 and September 6, 2020, San Quentin never had more than eight inmates test positive for COVID-
4 19 at a time; since September 7, San Quentin has experienced only one, two, or three inmates
5 testing positive at a time. (Population COVID-19 Tracking, San Quentin Institution View,
6 www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/population-status-tracking, as of Nov. 16, 2020.) This should be no
7 surprise; the outbreak following the transfer of inmates from the California Institution for Men is
8 “likely not the best predictor[] of how future outbreaks will unfold now that CDCR has
9 implemented preventative measures . . . and learned from experience how to respond to and
10 contain outbreaks.” (Exh. 3, *Plata v. Newsom* (01-cv-1351-JST), July 19, 2020 Decl. of Anne
11 Spaulding, MD, at p. 3.)

12 Lastly, as detailed in the Joint Case Management Statements, all aspects of testing,
13 movement, and housing are continuously discussed and monitored by the federal Receiver and
14 the *Plata* court.⁶ (Exhs. 1-2.) This is not asserted to undermine this Court’s power in these
15 proceedings. Indeed, the appellate court noted that “the prompt response of an appellate court
16 will enable the Marin County Superior Court to act with greater authority and more expeditiously
17 than it otherwise might.” (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL 6144780, at *18.) The court made this
18 statement in the section entitled “It is unnecessary to remand this case to the superior court,” and
19 the court was aware of the *Plata* proceedings and the consolidated proceedings in this Court. (*Id.*
20 at *6-8.) Therefore, a fair reading of that statement is that the Court of Appeal’s decision would
21 allow this Court to vacate the evidentiary hearing, and address the remedy for the petitioner-
22 prisoners here faster than the *Plata* court could. (*Id.* at *7.) Similarly, the court stating that this
23 Court should resolve any disputes arising from *Von Staich* also fairly reads, consistent with the
24 rest of the decision, that the parties should raise any disputes with this Court, rather than the
25 appellate court. (*Id.* at *19.) This is presumably because superior courts are inherently structured

26 ⁶ It bears noting that the Court of Appeal in *Von Staich* mistakenly concluded that “this
27 case and *Plata* address fundamentally different subjects.” (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL 6144780,
28 at *7.) *Plata* pertains to the delivery of constitutionally adequate medical care and, contrary to
the appellate court’s belief, is not limited to impact of crowding on medical care. (*Plata v.*
Newsom (N.D. Cal. Apr. 17, 2020) 445 F.Supp.3d 557, 560; see *Von Staich*, at *7.)

1 to timely address disputes between parties in a streamlined manner by a single judge, rather than
2 needing to assemble three justices on the appellate court who regularly only preside over
3 appellate arguments. Under any reading, there is no suggestion by the appellate court that this
4 Court should take any action before the *Von Staich* decision was final.

5 In short, this Court should not take any action before the *Von Staich* decision is final. San
6 Quentin’s population will continue to decrease, CDCR and the federal Receiver will continue
7 implementing COVID-19 mitigation strategies, and this Court can address any lingering issues in
8 a few months based on the most current information at that time.

9 **II. IF *VON STAICH* BECOMES FINAL, THIS COURT SHOULD NOT DECIDE THE REMEDY
10 FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL PETITIONER BECAUSE THE COURT OF APPEAL MADE
11 CLEAR THIS COURT MUST DEFER TO CDCR REGARDING HOW IT WILL REDUCE
12 SAN QUENTIN’S POPULATION.**

12 Petitioners urge this Court to decide that each individual petitioner’s remedy is release.
13 This Court should resist petitioners’ suggestion because deciding that every petitioner is entitled
14 to release would contradict the appellate court’s decision and the deference owed to CDCR in
15 managing its prisons. Regarding the remedy, the appellate court made clear its decision would
16 apply to all similarly situated inmates at San Quentin, and that this Court should not insert itself
17 into the mechanics of reducing the San Quentin population. (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL
18 6144780, at *16 [“The remedy we provide will benefit all San Quentin inmates and provide
19 CDCR latitude to determine how that happens”].) Accordingly, the court directed CDCR to
20 “expedite the removal from San Quentin State Prison—by means of release on parole or transfer
21 to another correctional facility administered or monitored by CDCR—of the number of prisoners
22 necessary to reduce the population of that prison to no more than 1,775 inmates.” (*Id.* at *19.)

23 Notably, the appellate court ordered the transfer, not the release, of Von Staich, and did not
24 “order the *release* of . . . any inmate.” (*Von Staich, supra*, 2020 WL6144780, at *18.) In doing
25 so, the court also rejected Von Staich’s request to “release . . . all San Quentin inmates whose age
26 or health condition put them at enhanced risk of death or grave illness from exposure to COVID-
27 19.” (*Id.* at *17.) The court denied having the power to order those specific prisoners’ release
28 and opined “it would be inappropriate and unwise” to do so, for a few reasons. (*Ibid.*) The court

1 recognized determining a prisoner’s vulnerability to COVID-19 “is far more fraught than
2 petitioner imagines” because the determination is based on “scientific facts, not law.” (*Ibid.*)
3 More importantly, “attempting to decide the question would require [the court] to ignore the
4 admonition that courts should not become ‘enmeshed in the minutiae of prison operations.’”
5 (*Ibid.*, quoting *Bell v. Wolfish* (1979) 441 U.S. 520, 562.) The Court of Appeal rightly recognized
6 that CDCR is “best positioned to determine the inmates whose removal from San Quentin can be
7 processed most expeditiously.” (*Id.* at *18.)⁷

8 By characterizing the determination of a prisoner’s vulnerability to COVID-19 as based on
9 “scientific facts, not law,” the appellate court made clear that neither petitioners’ counsel nor this
10 Court is equipped to determine which individual prisoners should be removed from San Quentin.
11 Petitioners nonetheless assert this Court should not allow CDCR to meet its population reduction
12 by transferring inmates to other institutions. (Petr.’ Opening Br. at pp. 12-19.) Petitioners do
13 not provide current, relevant, or complete information in support of their arguments, and instead
14 couch their concern with CDCR providing “mass transfers” of the type at the start of the
15 pandemic that caused the deadly outbreak at San Quentin in the first place. (*Id.* at p. 12.)

16 Obviously, CDCR does not intend to conduct mass transfers of the same kind that were
17 previously unsuccessful, and petitioners’ attempts to suggest prisoner transfers of any kind are not
18 safe or effective is not well taken. In the *Plata* class action, the parties in conjunction with the
19 federal Receiver and the California Correctional Health Care Services, continue to adopt
20 additional safety measures and modify those in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. (Exh. 1
21 at p. 5.) For example, the federal Receiver has developed a movement matrix setting forth the
22 required precautions before moving an inmate, including between prisons, and there have been no
23 reported COVID-19 transmission events associated with such movements since the matrix went
24 into effect on August 21, 2020. (*Id.* at p. 8; see also Petr.’ Opening Br., Exh. 20, COVID-19

25 ⁷ As of October 31, 2020, San Quentin housed: 724 inmates serving a determinate
26 sentence; 385 inmates serving a second strike sentence; 333 inmates serving a third strike
27 sentence; 748 inmates serving a sentence of life with the possibility of parole; one inmate serving
28 a sentence of life without the possibility of parole; and 660 condemned inmates. (Exh. 4, CDCR
Office of Research.) Of the then-total 2,851 inmates at San Quentin, 269 inmates are serving
serious offenses, 266 inmates are serving neither serious nor violent offenses, and 848 inmates
require sex offender registration. (*Ibid.*)

1 Screening and Testing Matrix for Patient Movement.) Indeed, transfers between institutions have
2 been regularly occurring without incident. (Exh. 1 at p. 7; e.g., Exh. 2 at p. 5 [noting there were
3 884 inter-prison transfers between September 28 and October 11, and no COVID-19 transmission
4 events occurred among the prisoners subjected to the movement matrix process]; Exh. 5,
5 Redacted List of Offenders with an Institution-to-Institution Movement Between Oct. 26, 2020
6 and Nov. 1, 2020 [reflecting 397 inmate transfers between institutions in that week]; Petrs.’
7 Opening Br., Exh. 9 at p. 9 [“CDCR is currently transferring hundreds of patients per week
8 between institutions without incident”].) Thus, petitioners’ suggestion that transfers will
9 necessarily contribute to COVID-19 outbreaks is unfounded. (Petrs.’ Opening Br. at pp. 14-15;
10 see Exh. 1 at p. 17 [reflecting that the most recent COVID-19 outbreak at the California State
11 Prison and Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF) was linked to staff who worked with
12 inmates in the kitchen and factory].)

13 Also lacking merit is petitioners’ contention that there is no other institution that could
14 safely house the number of San Quentin inmates needing to be transferred. (Compare Petrs.’
15 Opening Br. at pp. 14-15 with Exh. 6, Nov. 11, 2020 Weekly Report of Population, at p. 2
16 [reflecting 10 prisons in total being under capacity by 5,562 inmates].) Excluding Deuel
17 Vocational Institution which is set to close and the California Health Care Facility, there is no
18 reason to conclude that the remaining 29 male prisons could not absorb the approximately 1,026
19 prisoners from San Quentin, which equates to a mere 36 inmates per prison. (Exh. 6 at p. 2.)
20 Even omitting the prisons that are currently at more than 100 percent capacity, the remaining 10
21 prisons would only have to absorb 103 prisoners each. (*Ibid.*) That number would continue to
22 decrease as San Quentin prisoners are naturally released through parole grants, transfer, and
23 determinate terms ending, and through CDCR continuing to process early releases. (Exh. 1 at p.
24 5.) And contrary to petitioners’ assertion, all prisons have identified quarantine and isolation
25 space to be used in case of an outbreak. (Compare Petrs.’ Opening Br. at pp. 15-16 with Exh. 2 at
26 pp. 9-12.)

27 Further, petitioners’ list of self-serving reasons not to transfer them from San Quentin is
28 unpersuasive and undermines their Eighth Amendment claim. (Petrs.’ Opening Br. at pp. 17-18.)

1 If San Quentin is too dangerous to petitioners' health for them to be housed there, as they allege,
2 then they can be transferred, as the Court of Appeal held is in their best interest. Arguing they
3 should not be transferred because it is stressful, their family will be unable to visit, and they will
4 be unable to participate in programs that may support their bid for parole necessarily implies that
5 petitioners view the foregoing factors as mutually exclusive and more important than their need to
6 be free from San Quentin's alleged unsafe environment.⁸ (*Ibid.*) Neither can be true. If their
7 allegations are correct, petitioners must be stressed by remaining at San Quentin, and family
8 visiting and most in-person programs are suspended at every prison. Moreover, petitioners do not
9 get to have it both ways. Either San Quentin is so unsafe that their life depends on their removal
10 from there, or it is only unsafe if they are going to be transferred.

11 Finally, there is no need for petitioners' counsel to be notified before a client is transferred;
12 if the appellate court limited the court's role in the remedy, then certainly petitioners' counsel are
13 not allowed to "investigate whether the proposed transfer sufficiently addresses the petitioner's
14 pending constitutional claim." (Petr. Opening Br. at p. 2.) Providing otherwise would hinder
15 prison operations and insert petitioners' counsel and this Court into the minutiae of those
16 operations, contrary to *Von Staich*. In summary, the Court of Appeal declared that its remedy
17 would apply to all similarly situated San Quentin prisoners, and CDCR is responsible for
18 determining how to reduce San Quentin's population. This Court should reject petitioners'
19 arguments that suggest otherwise.

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26 ⁸ The due process clause does not provide state inmates with a constitutionally protected
27 liberty interest in transfers from one prison to another. (*Meachum v. Fano* (1976) 427 U.S. 215,
28 225.) As the Supreme Court has explained, "[c]onfinement in any of the State's [prisons] is
within the normal limits or range of custody which the conviction has authorized the State to
impose." (*Ibid.*)

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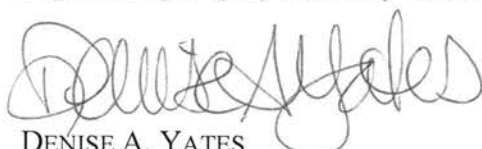
CONCLUSION

This Court should stay the proceedings until the *Von Staich* decision is final, and allow CDCR to continue managing its prison operations under the scrutiny of the parties and the federal Receiver in *Plata*.

Dated: November 16, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY E-MAIL

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In re Dontaye Harris, et al. .

No.: SC212933, et al.
No.: SC213244, et al.
No.: SC213534, et al.

I declare:

I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General, which is the office of a member of the California State Bar, at which member's direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to this matter.

On November 16, 2020, I served

RESPONDENT'S BRIEF REGARDING EFFECTS OF VON STAICH DECISION

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on November 16, 2020, at San Francisco, California.

N. Newlin

Declarant



Signature

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17 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, OAKLAND DIVISION**

18 MARCIANO PLATA, et al.,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 GAVIN NEWSOM, et al.,

22 Defendants.
23

CASE NO. 01-1351 JST

**JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

Judge: Hon. Jon S. Tigar

Date: November 5, 2020

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Crtrm.: 6, 2nd Floor

1 The parties submit the following joint statement in advance of the November 5,
2 2020 Case Management Conference.

3 **I. POPULATION REDUCTION**

4 *Plaintiffs' Position:* Further population reductions are necessary to minimize the
5 risk of harm from COVID-19, particularly at prisons with primarily open-air, congregate
6 living spaces, and among those at increased risk of harm if infected. As Defendants have
7 acknowledged, reduced population contributes to fewer infections and deaths. *See* ECF
8 No. 3469 at 3-4.

9 Unfortunately, as previously explained (*see* ECF No. 3417 at 2:14-3:2), the overall
10 CDCR population reduction since March, while certainly helped by early release
11 programs, has primarily resulted from natural releases and the suspension and limitation of
12 intake.¹ Defendants have now stopped two of the three population reduction programs
13 announced in July. As intake increases, and the number of early releases dwindles,
14 CDCR's total population will increase.

15 Indeed, CDCR's population is already beginning to increase: the population totals
16 for CDCR's Prisons and Camps on October 21 and 28 were, respectively, 7 and 75 people
17 greater than the week before.² Significantly, these week-to-week net increases were the
18 first reported since the initial CDCR COVID-19 patient was diagnosed in late March.³

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21 ¹ The subsidiary role of early releases in population reduction is further illustrated by
22 Defendants' recently provided data. They report that between July 1 and October 14,
23 approximately 6,200 were released early, while a far greater number -- approximately
24 8,500 -- were released via their natural release date (ECF No. 3469 at 2:9-13), and at the
25 same time, intake was prohibited until late August and since then has been, until the last
26 three weeks, greatly limited.

27 ² *See* "Institutions/Camps" totals (subpart A.I.1) at
28 [https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201021.pdf)
[content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201021.pdf](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201021.pdf) [October 21] and
[https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201028.pdf)
[content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201028.pdf](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201028.pdf) [October 28].

³ *See* "Institutions/Camps" totals (subpart A.I.1) in 2020 Weekly Total Population

1 Given the large number of people in county jail awaiting transport to CDCR,⁴ this
 2 dangerous increasing of population will likely continue unless the State re-starts early
 3 release programs.

4 We continue to be extremely disappointed that the State ended the early release
 5 program focused on those most vulnerable to severe complications or death if infected by
 6 COVID-19, and that so very few – less than 50 out of almost 6,600 eligible⁵ – were
 7 released by that program when it was in effect. We are similarly disappointed the State
 8 excluded people from its COVID-19 high risk early release consideration if medical
 9 conditions changed such that they were no longer considered high risk, but refused to
 10 include people newly determined to be high risk based on pre-existing medical conditions
 11 that public health officials in July announced were serious risk factors for hospitalization
 12 or death from COVID-19. We are finally disappointed that the State has not released
 13 anyone from San Quentin since the October 20 state appellate decision requiring that
 14 prion's population to be substantially reduced due to the risk of harm from COVID-19.

15 Our disappointment with the State's very limited releases of those most at risk is
 16 deepened given what appears to be the inevitable next wave of COVID-19 infections. The
 17

18
 19 Reports at <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/weekly-total-population-report-archive-2020/>.

20 ⁴ CDCR on September 29 stated that nearly 8,000 people in county jails were
 21 awaiting transport to its reception centers (see ECF No. 3460 at 10:8-20), and surely many
 22 additional people were sentenced to state prison in the counties since then. For the most
 23 recent three weeks, *i.e.*, those starting October 19, October 26, and November 2, CDCR
 24 told us that it authorized intake of, respectively, 610, 428, and 680 people.

25 ⁵ See ECF No. 3460 at 4:9-6:6 (Defendants report that of 6,599 eligible for early
 26 release consideration under COVID-19 high-risk program, 45 determinately sentenced
 27 people were approved for release, and 12 indeterminately sentenced people were referred
 28 to the Governor for executive clemency consideration). We are not aware of the Governor
 granting any person in prison clemency since these referrals were made. Even if all
 referred were released, the main point would remain: surpassingly few of those most at
 risk of harm from COVID-19 were released by the State's program specifically enacted to
 release those people.

1 Governor warned of this next wave a month ago.⁶ The United States as a whole is
 2 experiencing record-breaking numbers of infections, with no state reporting decreased
 3 numbers of infections.⁷ California, as of the end of October, had an almost 20 percent
 4 increase in infections over the previous week.⁸

5 *Defendants' Position:* As of October 28, 2020, CDCR has experienced a population
 6 reduction of 23,049, representing a nearly 20 percent decrease in the size of the population,
 7 since the start of the COVID-19 public health crisis.⁹ Between July 1 and October 28,
 8 2020, 6,391 people were released from institutions and camps as a result of the COVID-19
 9 early-release programs Defendants announced on July 10.¹⁰ This represents 206 more
 10 early releases than those reported in the October 20 case management statement.¹¹ An
 11 additional 9,089 were released in accordance with their natural release dates during this
 12

13 ⁶ See Amy Graff, SFGATE, *Newsom warns second COVID-19 wave in other*
 14 *countries could hit California* (Oct. 5, 2020),
 15 <https://www.sfgate.com/news/editorspicks/article/COVID-19-coronavirus-second-wave-California-fall-15623027.php>.

16 ⁷ See New York Times, *The U.S. breaks its record, tallying over 99,000 new cases in*
 17 *a day* (Oct. 31, 2020), [https://www.nytimes.com/live/2020/10/30/world/covid-19-](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2020/10/30/world/covid-19-coronavirus-updates#the-us-breaks-its-record-tallying-over-99000-new-cases-in-a-day)
 18 [coronavirus-updates#the-us-breaks-its-record-tallying-over-99000-new-cases-in-a-day](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2020/10/30/world/covid-19-coronavirus-updates#the-us-breaks-its-record-tallying-over-99000-new-cases-in-a-day)
 19 (reporting that “nearly two dozen states are reporting their worst weeks for new cases —
 20 and none are recording improvements”).

21 ⁸ See California Department of Public Health, COVID-19 Cases, California Cases, at
 22 [https://public.tableau.com/views/COVID-](https://public.tableau.com/views/COVID-19CasesDashboard_15931020425010/Cases?%3Aembed=y&%3AshowVizHome=no)
 23 [19CasesDashboard_15931020425010/Cases?%3Aembed=y&%3AshowVizHome=no](https://public.tableau.com/views/COVID-19CasesDashboard_15931020425010/Cases?%3Aembed=y&%3AshowVizHome=no) (last
 24 accessed Oct. 31, 2020) (showing as of October 31 an 18.4% “Weekly % Change” aka
 25 “Week-Over-Week % Change of New Cases”).

26 ⁹ This figure is calculated by taking the difference between the total population in
 27 institutions and camps on February 26, 2020 and October 14, 2020. Weekly population
 28 reports can be found at [https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/weekly-total-population-report-](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/weekly-total-population-report-archive-2020/)
[archive-2020/](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/weekly-total-population-report-archive-2020/).

29 ¹⁰ See ECF No. 3389 at 2:4-5:4 and [https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/expedited-](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/expedited-releases/)
 30 [releases/](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/expedited-releases/) for details regarding CDCR’s COVID-19 early-release program announced on
 31 July 10, 2020.

32 ¹¹ See ECF No. 3469 at 3:9-3:12.

1 period. As of October 28, CDCR's institutions and camps have a population of 94,293,
 2 CDCR's lowest population in three decades.¹²[https://word-
 10 edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-
 11 US&hid=vCe5%2Bp3Mrkefw96kzKDndA.0&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwopi.onedrive.com%2
 12 Fwopi%2Ffiles%2FEFAD5F4D2302DFAD!1633&wde=docx&sc=host%3D%26qt%3DFolders&
 13 msc=1&wdp=2&uih=OneDrive&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-
 14 37031bfc25a6&usid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-
 15 37031bfc25a6&newsession=1&sftc=1&wdorigin=Unknown&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&w
 16 dredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush_-_ftn2">https://word-
 17 edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-
 18 US&hid=vCe5%2Bp3Mrkefw96kzKDndA.0&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwopi.onedrive.com%2
 19 Fwopi%2Ffiles%2FEFAD5F4D2302DFAD!1633&wde=docx&sc=host%3D%26qt%3DFolders&
 20 msc=1&wdp=2&uih=OneDrive&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-
 21 37031bfc25a6&usid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-
 22 37031bfc25a6&newsession=1&sftc=1&wdorigin=Unknown&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&w
 23 dredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush_-_ftn3">https://word-
 24 edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-
 25 US&hid=vCe5%2Bp3Mrkefw96kzKDndA.0&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwopi.onedrive.com%2](https://word-

 3 edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-

 4 US&hid=vCe5%2Bp3Mrkefw96kzKDndA.0&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwopi.onedrive.com%2

 5 Fwopi%2Ffiles%2FEFAD5F4D2302DFAD!1633&wde=docx&sc=host%3D%26qt%3DFolders&

 6 msc=1&wdp=2&uih=OneDrive&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-

 7 37031bfc25a6&usid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-

 8 37031bfc25a6&newsession=1&sftc=1&wdorigin=Unknown&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&w

 9 dredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush_-_ftn1)

26
 27
 28 ¹² See October 28, 2020 population report at <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201028.pdf>.

1 Fwopi%2Ffiles%2FEFAD5F4D2302DFAD!1633&wde=docx&sc=host%3D%26qt%3DFolders&
 2 mssc=1&wdp=2&uih=OneDrive&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-
 3 37031bfc25a6&usid=de8d08f3-df71-4e33-908c-
 4 37031bfc25a6&newsession=1&sftc=1&wdorigin=Unknown&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&w
 5 dredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush - _ftn4

6 CDCR continues to process early releases on a rolling basis through the 180-day
 7 early-release program announced on July 10, which has accounted for the vast majority of
 8 all early releases since then. This discretionary early-release program was implemented as
 9 an added safety measure at a time when more comprehensive COVID-19 related policies
 10 were still being developed. Since then, CDCR adopted additional significant safety
 11 measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including, as described below, a drastic
 12 reduction in intake from county jails, comprehensive testing, quarantine, isolation, and
 13 movement protocols, policies regarding personal protective equipment, and plans for
 14 COVID-19 testing of staff and incarcerated persons. CDCR continues to evaluate,
 15 improve, and update these policies in close coordination with the Receiver.

16 CDCR has regularly provided early-release data to Plaintiffs' counsel and the public
 17 after announcing the July 10 programs. The data shows that CDCR's early-release
 18 programs are not merely subsidiary: between July 1 and October 28, 2020, early releases
 19 accounted for over 41 percent of all releases from CDCR's institutions and camps during
 20 that period.¹³ Defendants have also been transparent about the fact that the early releases
 21 are one of many safety measures CDCR implemented in response to COVID-19, and note
 22 that Plaintiffs' list of disappointments (*see supra* pp. 2-3) lacks recognition of the logistics
 23 of release and post-release processes and the impact on public safety.

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 26 ¹³ As reported above and according to data compiled by CDCR's Office of Research,
 27 6,391 people were released from CDCR's institutions and camps through its COVID-19
 28 early-release programs between July 1 and October 28. 9,089 additional people were
 released in accordance with their natural release dates. A total of 15,480 people were
 released during this period.

1 Plaintiffs' counsel receives several updates regarding intake and its mechanics each
2 week through email and phone conferences, and they are aware of the planning, testing,
3 quarantine, isolation, communication, and movement protocols involved in the intake
4 process. Plaintiffs continue to disapprove of CDCR's efforts to provide relief to
5 overpopulated county jails by restarting intake, but fail to acknowledge the impact on jails,
6 courts, and local communities CDCR's intake policies have. At the October 21, 2020 case
7 management conference, Plaintiffs' counsel had no response when the Court attempted to
8 seek clarity on their conflicting positions on this issue (Tr. at 13:11-12), and appear to
9 offer no further clarity on their position in this statement.

10 Additionally, Plaintiffs' commentary on the State's compliance with court
11 directives in *In re Ivan Von Staich*, No. A160122, 2020 WL 6144780 (Cal. Ct. App. Oct.
12 20, 2020) is unhelpful and inappropriate. *In re Von Staich* is a separate, state court matter
13 that currently remains pending. Defendants will not substantively comment on that
14 litigation here except to note that, on its own motion, the California Supreme Court opened
15 a case for appeal of this matter and extended its time for ordering review to and including
16 February 17, 2020. Thus, the *In re Von Staich* order does not become enforceable until
17 either the court denies a petition for review or the period expires for California Supreme
18 Court review (on February 17, 2020), whichever occurs first.

19 Plaintiffs' counsel continue to omit mention of safety measures that have been
20 created, executed, and improved over the past eight months or the beneficial impact they
21 have had. Indeed, Plaintiffs have actively contributed to the development of safety
22 protocols implemented by the Receiver and monitored CDCR's compliance with these
23 protocols, many of which are mentioned on page four above and in sections below. These
24 include, but are not limited to, aggressive testing strategies in each of CDCR's 35
25 institutions, contact tracing conducted by healthcare staff, quarantine and isolation
26 protocols that surpass some Centers for Disease Control recommendations, a movement
27 matrix that controls all movement of incarcerated people across the state, staff testing,
28 protective-equipment guidance, and an ongoing collaboration between CDCR and the

1 counties regarding compliance with these standards in advance of intake.

2 Finally, Plaintiffs comment on the current size of CDCR's population. Although
3 CDCR's population has increased by 82 people in the past two weeks since the last case
4 management conference, it has reduced by nearly 20 percent since the beginning of March
5 and still remains the lowest it has been in three decades.

6 **II. TESTING AND TRANSFER PROTOCOLS**

7 *Plaintiffs' Position:* CDCR continues to transfer large numbers of patients between
8 prisons. Over the last several weeks, there have been on average approximately 500 such
9 transfers per week. Testing and quarantining of those transferred, to reduce the risk of
10 COVID-19 transmission, remain governed by CCHCS's August 19 "Movement Matrix."

11 We are not able at present to adequately monitor compliance with the Movement
12 Matrix's testing and quarantine requirements. The best we can do is spot check individual
13 patient records, and it is not possible to gain a systemic view of compliance doing that
14 given the large numbers of people transferred. We also ask CCHCS regularly if it is aware
15 of any COVID-19 transmission events associated with transfers; it says it is not aware of
16 any such events. And while CCHCS says it believes prison staff are complying with the
17 Matrix requirements, we believe it necessary—again remembering the San Quentin
18 disaster resulting from transfers of positive patients into that prison, and the failure to
19 properly quarantine them once they arrived—that objective information document
20 compliance.

21 In this regard, CCHCS says its Transfer Registry, which we are told will
22 comprehensively display compliance with Movement Matrix requirements for each
23 transferred person, will be made available to us when "fully operational" or "completed."
24 As of October 30, no date for this could be provided by CCHCS. We are not able to
25 square this information with previous reports that the Transfer Registry had been
26 implemented.

27 CCHCS also previously stated that it would modify an existing form in its
28 Electronic Health Records System (EHRS) so that nurses before a transfer can document

1 that they checked that Movement Matrix requirements had been followed at the sending
2 prison. On October 30, CCHCS said it wanted to complete work on this project and
3 implement the revised form as soon as possible, but could not provide a date by which that
4 would happen.

5 *Defendants' Position:* Since the current iteration of the movement matrix went into
6 effect on August 21, 2020, DAI, CCHCS, and leadership teams at all institutions have held
7 meetings, conference calls, and training sessions to help staff understand and implement
8 the matrix. As directed by the matrix, movement is limited and controlled, and must be
9 pre-approved by CDCR headquarters, which is working in collaboration with CCHCS
10 (including Mr. Cullen and Dr. Bick). Additionally, there is continued enforcement of the
11 safety protocols requiring all county staff and incarcerated people arriving at CDCR on
12 intake buses to wear N95 masks. Further, CDCR and CCHCS continue to utilize measures
13 to track patient information for transfers. Staff at each prison have procedures and
14 processes in place to follow the requirements of the matrix. Further, on October 6, 2020,
15 CCHCS implemented an online registry to track all transfer information for incarcerated
16 persons. The registry is easily accessible, updateable, and contains comprehensive
17 information that allows staff to review medical and other important data before, during,
18 and after transfers. Finally, the prisons continue to offer comprehensive COVID-19 testing
19 for incarcerated people, and the specific protocols for each prison are outlined for Plaintiffs
20 during routine calls with CCHCS staff.

21 **III. INTAKE**

22 *Plaintiffs' Position:* CDCR doubled intake this week: from 338 the week of October
23 25, to 680 the week of November 1. As noted above, the State has at the same time ended
24 two of the three early release programs announced in July. If the State continues intake at
25 this pace, without conducting additional early releases, the population reduction achieved
26 in recent months will be slowly reversed.

27 *Defendants' Position:* CDCR accepted 445 incarcerated persons into custody from
28 county jail intake the week of October 18, and 338 incarcerated persons the week of

1 October 25, as follows:
 2

3	Week of:	Number of Incarcerated Persons	Sending County	Receiving Institution
4	October 18	26	Humboldt	NKSP
5	October 18	28	Shasta	NKSP
6	October 18	41	Butte	NKSP
7	October 18	10	Plumas	NKSP
8	October 18	5	Modoc	NKSP
9	October 18	30	Napa	NKSP
10	October 18	22	Contra Costa	NKSP
11	October 18	40	Sutter	NKSP
12	October 18	74	Los Angeles	WSP
13	October 18	130	San Bernardino	WSP
14	October 18	39	Orange	CCWF
15	Total Week of October 18:	445		
16	October 25	44	El Dorado	NKSP
17	October 25	23	Shasta	NKSP
18	October 25	15	Colusa	NKSP
19	October 25	32	Yuba	NKSP
20	October 25	105	Tulare	WSP
21	October 25	52	San Luis Obispo	WSP
22	October 25	35	Los Angeles	CCWF
23	October 25	10	Kings	NKSP
24	Total Week of October 25:	338		
25				
26				
27				
28				

1 Each week, CDCR headquarters staff meet with leadership at the three reception
 2 centers (NKSP, WSP, and CCWF) and CCHCS to evaluate current available space,
 3 determine whether the institutions should permit intake the following week, and if so, how
 4 much space is available to accommodate social distancing of newly arriving incarcerated
 5 persons during the initial quarantine period.

6 For the week of November 1, CDCR has authorized intake as follows:

Number of Incarcerated Persons	Sending County	Receiving Institution
100	San Joaquin	NKSP
50	Madera	NKSP
40	Mendocino	NKSP
100	Riverside	NKSP
50	Sacramento	NKSP
25	Sacramento	WSP
100	Fresno	WSP
100	Merced	WSP
50	Sonoma	WSP
25	Sacramento	WSP
40	San Diego	CCWF
Total Week of November	680	
1:		

22 As Defendants have reported in previous Case Management Statements, CDCR is
 23 working tirelessly to ensure that sending counties are complying with all intake protocols,
 24 including testing of incarcerated persons in advance of transport and wearing of N95
 25 masks by both incarcerated persons and transportation staff at all times during transport.
 26 CDCR requires strict compliance with its protocol and has refused buses at intake on this
 27 basis, two of which were refused this week.

28 CDCR also coordinates intake with the sending counties to ensure that it is spread

1 across multiple days within the week to better enable staff at the receiving institution to
2 ensure social distancing during the intake process.

3 CDCR remains in communication each week with the California State Sheriffs'
4 Association to determine which counties have the greatest need and are able to comply
5 with CDCR's strict transfer protocol, and establishes priority for intake accordingly.

6 **IV. QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION**

7 *Plaintiffs' Position:*

8 **A. Set Aside of Quarantine and Isolation Space**

9 Plaintiffs continue to contest the adequacy of the quarantine and isolation space
10 identified by Defendants at each prison in response to the Court order of July 22, ECF No.
11 3401 at 3-4. We raised our concerns with CCHCS on September 16, as described in
12 several past Joint Case Management Conference Statements, based on (a) the plan to use
13 congregate living environments with shared airspace for quarantine purposes, when
14 experience has proven that such environments serve as incubators for uncontrolled viral
15 spread, and (b) the plan to move patients to housing environments that many consider will
16 render them susceptible to attack from other incarcerated people.

17 On October 27, we asked the Receiver to consider an additional question: whether
18 the set-aside spaces at each prison include provisions for people who are about to be
19 transferred or have been recently transferred (known as precautionary quarantine). This
20 question has gained urgency as inter-prison transfers have steadily increased, averaging
21 approximately 500 per week in recent weeks, and intake has climbed as well, with a
22 planned 680 to enter CDCR from county jails the week of November 2.

23 CCHCS's own COVID-19 Screening and Testing Matrix for Patient Movement of
24 August 19, 2020, requires people to be placed in precautionary quarantine pre- and post-
25 transfer in celled housing (except for those prisons that have no cells). Each prison "shall
26 maintain sufficient quarantine space to accommodate its historical average volume of
27 transfers." (Definitions at 2.b.ii.) Plaintiffs asked whether such quarantine space has been
28 set aside in accordance with this directive, and if so, whether it is considered included in

1 the set-aside space for outbreaks.

2 **B. Development of Policies Related to Quarantine and Isolation**

3 As reported at prior Case Management Conferences, Plaintiffs have asked the
4 Receiver to consider developing three policies related to quarantine and isolation: (a)
5 guidance regarding when people should be quarantined or isolated in a space other than the
6 set-aside space, (b) procedures and time-frames for placing patients in isolation or
7 quarantine once positive test results are received or information is received regarding an
8 exposure, and (c) a directive to ensure that those placed in isolation due to symptoms who
9 are pending a COVID-19 test results are kept separate from those who are lab-confirmed to
10 have COVID-19. *See* ECF No. 3469 at 12. On October 30, CCHCS updated its policy
11 regarding the preferential use of set aside space for isolation and quarantine, and stated that
12 isolation of positive patients should happen immediately. No specific procedures for
13 ensuring that were mandated. CCHCS on October 30 said that is developing a report that
14 will measure compliance with key quarantine and isolation requirements. We hope this
15 includes timeliness of placement. CCHCS also says that directives regarding separate
16 isolation placement for symptomatic patients who are pending test results have been
17 provided verbally to the prisons, and will be included in the next revision of the isolation
18 guidelines set forth in the Movement Matrix.

19 **C. Monitoring Use of Quarantine and Isolation Space**

20 CCHCS provided us with the Outbreak Management Tool (OMT) for 10 prisons, as
21 requested, and late last week provided access to a portal at which it says all prisons' OMTs
22 will be accessible. We have engaged in productive discussions with CCHCS regarding
23 best practices and our suggestions for OMT improvements. In our view, the OMTs should
24 permit managers and executives to determine whether fundamental CCHCS public health
25 directives regarding medical isolation and quarantine are being followed at the prisons, and
26
27
28

1 provide information from which we can monitor such compliance.¹⁴ We have at CCHCS's
 2 invitation suggested revisions to the OMTs so they might better present this key
 3 information.

4 *Defendants' Position:* As discussed in the last joint statement, CDCR has
 5 completed its initial effort to set aside large amounts of previously identified isolation and
 6 quarantine space at the prisons. CDCR has continued to work with Plaintiffs, the
 7 Receiver, the *Coleman* Special Master, and the *Armstrong* Court Expert to ensure that
 8 appropriate isolation and quarantine space is reserved for class members of all three class
 9 actions and to modify reserved spaces and plans for quarantine and isolation as needed
 10 across the system.

11 On October 27, 2020, representatives from all three class actions met again to
 12 discuss isolation and quarantine space needs, with a focus on the needs of *Coleman*
 13 enhanced-outpatient class members. The *Plata* Receiver and the *Coleman* Special Master
 14 requested another follow-up meeting to take place on November 10. Similar efforts are
 15 underway through the *Armstrong* case to ensure that the potential needs of *Armstrong* class
 16 members are adequately covered.

17 **V. SAFELY HOUSING MEDICALLY VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

18 *Plaintiffs' Position:* People who live in open airspace congregate living areas in
 19 CDCR prisons are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than those housed in cells, and
 20 thousands of people living in those spaces currently are at heightened risk of severe illness
 21 or death from the virus, due to their age and/or medical condition. Since we filed our last
 22 Statement, the Receiver finalized his report entitled "Transferring COVID-19 High-Risk
 23

24
 25 ¹⁴ CCHCS's public health directives are set forth in its web-based COVID-19 "Interim
 26 Guidance" (<https://cchcs.ca.gov/covid-19-interim-guidance/>), including in particular the
 27 "Definitions" section at the end of Appendix 13, the "COVID-19 Screening and Testing
 28 Matrix for Patient Movement" (revised August 19, 2020, and also known as the Movement
 Matrix).

1 Patients to Safer Housing” in which he addresses concerns about the medically vulnerable
2 in open airspace living units. The Safer Housing Report recommends that CDCR “extend
3 an offer to the over 8,200 patients with COVID-19 risk scores of 3 and above the
4 opportunity to transfer into closed-front cells either at their existing institution or at
5 another institution.”

6 Plaintiffs support this recommendation, and Defendants have not objected to it. *See*
7 ECF No. 3475 at 21. Indeed, Defendants have repeatedly affirmed that they are
8 “committed to working with the Receiver to facilitate movements of medically high-risk
9 patients from dorms to cells” to ensure safe housing “when such movement is
10 recommended and approved by the appropriate public health and corrections experts.”
11 ECF No. 3469 at 15; *see also* ECF No. 3460 at 17, ECF No. 3448 at 16.

12 Unfortunately, progress towards implementing this recommendation has been
13 limited. During our meeting with the Receiver’s staff and Defendants on October 22, Mr.
14 Kelso stated that his staff and Defendants would form a Working Group to plan for and to
15 implement offering celled housing to medically vulnerable people, consistent with his
16 Report. He indicated that this process would be undertaken “quickly,” and that he was
17 identifying CDCR custody and mental health staff to participate in this process. However,
18 Plaintiffs learned on October 30 that the Working Group has not yet been formed.
19 According to Vince Cullen, Director of Health Care Operations and Corrections Services,
20 CCHCS is still assessing all prisons to ensure they have accurate information about the
21 living spaces available. He reported that this process will not take months, but will also
22 “not be ready next week.”

23 Providing safer housing to those who are at highest risk of serious illness or death if
24 they contract COVID-19 must be a priority, and the Plaintiffs urge Defendants and the
25 Receiver to expedite this process. There will be, as the parties and the Court have
26 recognized, challenges to implementation that include, but are not limited to, a reluctance
27 on the part of many who have earned the right to live in less restrictive dorm housing to
28

1 move to a more restrictive cell.¹⁵ Plaintiffs believe that there may be ways to incentivize
 2 movement to safer housing, and will welcome the opportunity to work with the Receiver
 3 and Defendants to develop and deploy strategies to make safer housing appealing to those
 4 who would benefit most from a move. As noted above, the next wave of infections is
 5 building now, and expediting the process is critical.

6 *Defendants' Position:* The Receiver has provided the parties with a final report on
 7 October 21, 2020 that proposes that CDCR should offer over 8,000 high risk medical
 8 patients living in dorms the opportunity to move into a single cell. The Defendants remain
 9 committed to working with the Receiver to facilitate movements of medically high-risk
 10 patients from dorms to cells, or any other movements, to safely house medically high-risk
 11 patients when such movement is recommended and approved by the appropriate public
 12 health and corrections experts.

13 **VI. COVID-19 TESTING**

14 *Plaintiffs' Position:*

15 **A. Staff Testing**

16 As previously reported, CCHCS took over authority for the staff testing program in
 17 August. On October 30, CCHCS distributed a revised "Employee Testing Guidance" to
 18 the parties. We are reviewing the revised Guidance and will send any concerns to
 19 CCHCS. Preliminarily, the revised Guidance appears to have increased the frequency of
 20 testing for employees at CHCF, CMF, and CCWF, and in medical inpatient units, from
 21 monthly to at least every two weeks (and weekly during an outbreak). It also increases the
 22 frequency of testing for transportation and hospital custody staff, from monthly to weekly,
 23 which we support. We are reviewing whether the revised Guidance's testing requirements
 24 are adequate for staff who work at jobs areas, such as kitchens and factories, that require
 25

26
 27 ¹⁵ As noted in our previous Case Management Conference Statement, Plaintiffs have
 28 distributed over 120 surveys to people who have been offered, and have declined, transfer
 and are in the process of reviewing and compiling that information.

1 high levels of contact with incarcerated people and have been the source of a number of
2 major outbreaks.

3 Regarding staffing for this program, CCHCS reports that as of October 5, it had
4 assigned employee health RNs to each prison to conduct contact tracing onsite (this was
5 previously done at Headquarters). CCHCS also reports that it will hire nurses to conduct
6 the testing at each prison, and has stated it plans to have these nurses in place by the end of
7 December. In the meantime, vendors continue to conduct employee testing.

8 Regarding Plaintiffs' monitoring, we still do not have access to employee testing
9 data. The last update we received was in the July 27 Joint Case Management Conference
10 Statement. *See* ECF No. 3405 at 8-10. CCHCS has said it is working on a reporting
11 system for this data, and that reports for three prisons where some of the most vulnerable
12 patients are incarcerated—CHCF, CMF, and CCWF—would be sent to us this week.

13 We support these developments and appreciate the steps CCHCS has taken to
14 improve the staff testing program. But, seven months into this pandemic, we are
15 disappointed that a comprehensive staff testing plan has yet to be fully implemented. Most
16 significantly, CCHCS has reported that testing employees with symptoms of COVID-19—
17 something we have been requesting since July, *see* ECF No. 3370, including in our motion,
18 *see* ECF No. 3402 at 4-6—will not happen until CCHCS nurses are hired and trained to
19 conduct onsite testing, which it estimates will not be completed until the end of December.

20 **B. Incarcerated Population Testing**

21 **1. Patient Testing Policies**

22 We have since June asked CCHCS to revise certain COVID-19 clinical guidelines
23 regarding patient testing so that instead of language indicating a discretionary suggestion
24 (e.g., “should”), words (e.g., “shall”) be used that denote a directive mandate. We
25 specifically were concerned about provisions related to serial re-testing of those
26 quarantined who initially tested negative, and regular testing of those who work in areas
27 with high levels of contact with staff or other incarcerated people.

28

1 With regard to serial re-testing, it appears the requested change will be made.¹⁶
 2 With regard to testing of essential workers who have high levels of contact with staff and
 3 others, no changes were made to the clinical guidelines, and there continues to be no
 4 mandated testing of these people despite multiple major COVID-19 outbreaks being
 5 directly attributable to such contact. On October 30, we again raised these concerns in
 6 relation to the most recent such outbreak, involving kitchen and factory workers at the
 7 California State Prison and Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF). According to
 8 CCHCS, these workers were infected by staff and then seeded infections in multiple
 9 housing units, with approximately 400 people testing positive over the last 14 days. We
 10 believe CCHCS must require that prisons at specified intervals test workers who have high
 11 levels of contact with staff. On October 30, the Receiver said the issue would be
 12 considered.

13 2. Notification to Patients of Test Results

14 In early July we first raised concerns about inadequate patient notification and
 15 education regarding COVID-19 test results. CCHCS continues to work on implementing
 16 standardized templates that will notify patients of negative, inconclusive, or negative
 17 COVID-19 test results, and provide educational information. On October 30, CCHCS
 18 indicated it hoped to implement use of these templates by Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, and
 19 unfortunately, late, limited, and otherwise inadequate written notification of and education
 20 regarding test results continues.

21 *Defendants' Position:* Defendants note that Plaintiffs have raised issues in this
 22 section that appear to be directed to the Receiver's office and CCHCS. Defendants will
 23 not attempt to respond on their behalf, but remain committed to working with them in
 24

25 ¹⁶ On November 2, CCHCS's Chief Counsel wrote, as we understand it, that
 26 discretionary language ("should") would be replaced with mandatory language ("shall") in
 27 the Interim Guidance's "Testing for COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Pathogens"
 28 provision that currently reads "[s]erial retesting of housing unit inmates and others who are
 at potential exposure risk, who are quarantined, and initially test negative should be
 performed every 3-7 days until no new cases are identified."

1 addressing Plaintiffs' concerns.

2 **VII. OIG Report on the Use of Face Coverings in CDCR**

3 *Plaintiffs' Position:* On October 26, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
4 released its second report in its review of CDCR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
5 See Office of the Inspector General, *COVID-19 Review Series, Part Two: The California*
6 *Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Distributed and Mandated the Use of*
7 *Personal Protective Equipment and Cloth Face Coverings; However, Its Lax Enforcement*
8 *Led to Inadequate Adherence to Basic Safety Protocols* (Oct. 2020), available at:
9 [https://www.oig.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OIG-COVID-19-Review-Series-Part-](https://www.oig.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OIG-COVID-19-Review-Series-Part-2-%E2%80%93-Face-Coverings-and-PPE.pdf)
10 [2-%E2%80%93-Face-Coverings-and-PPE.pdf](https://www.oig.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OIG-COVID-19-Review-Series-Part-2-%E2%80%93-Face-Coverings-and-PPE.pdf). This report reviews CDCR's distribution
11 and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The OIG found that, although CDCR had
12 provided PPE and communicated face covering and physical distancing requirements to
13 staff and incarcerated persons, in practice, both frequently failed to adhere to mask-
14 wearing requirements. *Id.* at 2. OIG staff directly observed this during their monitoring
15 visits, *id.* at 22-30, and significant noncompliance was also reported by prison staff
16 surveyed by the OIG, *id.* at 31.

17 Most troubling, the OIG concluded that the failure to follow face covering and
18 physical distancing requirements "was likely caused at least in part by the department's
19 supervisors' and managers' lax enforcement of the requirements." *Id.* at 2. The OIG noted
20 that CDCR has referred only 7 employees (out of more than 63,000) for formal
21 investigation or punitive actions for misconduct relating to face covering and physical
22 distancing requirements since February 1, 2020. *Id.* at 2-3, 35. Even lower levels of
23 progressive discipline were infrequent: "A sample of five prisons that employ a total of
24 10,382 staff showed that from February 1, 2020, to September 2, 2020, prison supervisors
25 and managers had taken just 29 disciplinary actions—in a period spanning seven months—
26 for noncompliance with the department's face covering or physical distancing
27 requirements." *Id.* at 20-21. Of those 29, "almost all the actions taken were the lowest
28 levels of the progressive discipline process: namely, verbal warnings and instances of

1 written counseling.” *Id.* at 34. California Institution for Men, with 1,413 COVID-
2 confirmed cases and 27 COVID-related deaths among the incarcerated population,
3 “provided no documentation of any disciplinary actions.” *Id.* at 2, 34. San Quentin, with
4 2,240 COVID-confirmed cases and 28 COVID-related deaths, “provided documentation of
5 just one action.” *Id.* at 2, 34-35.

6 The OIG also faulted CDCR and CCHCS for loosening face covering requirements
7 in June 2020. *Id.* at 3, 36. Two memos released in June allowed staff and incarcerated
8 persons to remove their face coverings when they were outside and able to maintain a
9 distance of at least six feet from other individuals. *Id.* at 36-37.

10 Plaintiffs were deeply troubled by this report. In response to the OIG’s
11 recommendations, on October 27, CDCR and CCHCS issued a memorandum requiring
12 staff to wear face coverings “at all times,” with two exceptions: (1) when a staff member is
13 alone in a hard-walled office, tower, or control booth, and (2) when a staff members is in
14 the performance of their duties and is actively responding to an incident. In the latter
15 incident, the staff member is permitted to remove their face covering while
16 jogging/running to respond to an incident. The memorandum also provides that
17 “corrective action shall be taken” whenever managers or supervisors observe
18 noncompliance, and that managers and supervisors “shall document” the noncompliance in
19 a tracking log. Finally, the memo calls for unannounced compliance visits to each prison.

20 We support these efforts, but remain concerned, as self-monitoring of compliance
21 with the face covering and physical distancing policies has proven to be extremely
22 difficult. We have previously sent reports to CDCR and CCHCS of staff not adhering to
23 these policies; each time, we have been told that CDCR or CCHCS conducted audits and
24 found no or limited issues. We believe that the OIG should conduct another review of
25 CDCR’s compliance with the mandatory mask requirement in the near future, given the
26 likelihood of another wave of COVID-19 infections hitting the prisons in the near future.
27 The Inspector General has informed us that upon request from the Court he would conduct
28 a follow-up review in a few months in order to determine whether there is increased

1 compliance by staff with the mask wearing requirements.

2 *Defendants' Position:* On October 26, 2020, the OIG released a report focused on
3 CDCR's distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to its staff and incarcerated
4 persons during the COVID 19 pandemic. The report states that OIG monitored CDCR
5 institutions between May 19, 2020 and July 29, 2020 and that it conducted state-wide staff
6 surveys.

7 The report found that, despite early shortages, CDCR was generally able to procure
8 and maintain PPE supplies. Indeed, by April 9, CDCR delivered more than half of the
9 752,000 cloth face coverings it had purchased to its institutions. However, the report
10 further found that CDCR's enforcement of face covering and social distancing guidelines
11 was too lax and that not enough disciplinary action was employed, resulting in
12 noncompliance by staff and incarcerated persons.

13 On October 27, CDCR issued a memorandum updating the requirements regarding
14 the use of facial coverings and physical distancing, including strict enforcement protocols
15 and regular unannounced compliance audits to each institution. The memorandum
16 reminds "[a]ll departmental supervisors and managers [that they] are responsible for
17 ensuring subordinate staff consistently wear approved face coverings correctly and practice
18 physical distancing," and that failure to do so will result in corrective action. This
19 memorandum is attached as **Exhibit A**. Further, on October 28, CCHCS issued an
20 amended memorandum outlining enhanced entrance screening procedures that detail the
21 screening process, screener training, guidance for employees who are sick or denied
22 entrance to an institution, and regular submission of a proof of practice report to ensure
23 compliance with screening procedures, attached as **Exhibit B**.

24 In addition, Regional Healthcare Executives conducted random, surprise spot
25 checks at several institutions the week of November 2. Progressive discipline was initiated
26 for instances of noncompliance, in accordance with CDCR's October 27 memorandum.
27 Further, Secretary Allison and Mr. Kelso are jointly hosting a call with all wardens, CEOs,
28 and their management teams on Friday, November 6 to further reiterate the importance of

1 the mask wearing mandate and related discipline for noncompliance. Secretary Allison
2 and Mr. Kelso are also in the process of creating a video with additional speakers which
3 will stress the importance of mask wearing to staff. Thus, while CDCR is disappointed
4 and concerned by the OIG's findings based upon monitoring that occurred before the end
5 of July, it is taking every effort to ensure staff compliance with mask-wearing mandates
6 and enhance policies to further safeguard the institution population as well as staff against
7 the spread of COVID-19.

8 **VIII. Prison-Specific Updates**

9 *Plaintiffs' Position:* We continue to have weekly conferences with Regional Health
10 Care Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and their supervisor regarding COVID-related
11 matters at individual prisons. We very much appreciate these discussions, including
12 because we learn of positive initiatives, raise concerns about problems, and suggest
13 opportunities for improvement.

14 Based on information received at the October 16 conference with the CEOs, we on
15 October 20 reported to the Court that CIM would begin serial weekly testing of never-
16 positive patients, as is being done at San Quentin, and the California Rehabilitation Center
17 (CRC). *See* ECF No. 3469 at 17:16-22. We also reported that CIM had arranged for
18 approximately 20 additional nurses, to implement such testing. *Id.*

19 On October 23, the Regional CEO said serial retesting did not start at CIM and that
20 20 additional nurses were not obtained there; CCHCS then said it would review the matter.
21 On October 30, it was again stated that serial retesting of never-positive patients prison-
22 wide, is not occurring at CIM, could not occur until additional nurses were hired, and that
23 an experienced physician had been sent to the prison to determine those staffing needs.

24 That incorrect information was provided about serial weekly testing at CIM is
25 unfortunate. That such retesting has not started is unacceptable. Serial retesting of never-
26 positive patients occurs at San Quentin, CRC, and, we believe, Avenal. The COVID-19
27 outbreak at CIM is about to enter its eighth month. Almost 1,500 at the prison have been
28 infected with the virus, resulting in 161 hospitalized (the largest such total among CDCR

1 prisons) and 27 deaths (sadly, the second highest among the state prisons). CIM has a very
 2 large number of medically vulnerable patients: only the California Health Care Facility
 3 (CHCF) and the California Medical Facility (CMF) have greater percentages of high risk
 4 medical patients.¹⁷ CIM's number of medically vulnerable patients, and the continuing
 5 consequences from COVID-19 suffered by those at the prison (the two most recent deaths
 6 occurred in the last week), require that weekly retesting of never-positive patients start
 7 immediately.¹⁸

8 *Defendants' Position:* Defendants note that Plaintiffs have raised issues in this
 9 section that appear to be directed to the Receiver's office and CCHCS. Defendants will
 10 not attempt to respond on their behalf, but remain committed to working with them in
 11 addressing Plaintiffs' concerns.

12 **IX. Updates on Medical Care Matters Not Directly Related to COVID-19**

13 *Plaintiffs' Position:* A conference with CCHCS has been scheduled for November
 14 6 to discuss in more detail what is being done about the thousands of delayed (many for
 15 months) Addiction Medicine physician appointments for patients with substance use
 16 disorders referred for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). See ECF No. 3469 at 19.
 17 We appreciate the opportunity to further discuss this important issue. In the last two weeks
 18 we have for the first time learned, via CCHCS responses to queries about particular
 19 patients, that a part of the problem is that some Addiction Medicine physicians, both at a
 20 local prison and headquarters, have reached their current patient load limit set by federal
 21 licensing requirements and thus cannot prescribe MAT for additional patients.

22
 23
 24 ¹⁷ The most recent data provided by CCHCS, dated August 2020, shows that 65% of
 25 CHCF's population is designated medical high risk. At CMF and CIM, respectively,
 26 53.9% and 49.6% of the population is so designated. Because CIM houses more people
 than CMF, the number of medical high risk patients housed there is greater than at CMF.

27 ¹⁸ We support the serial retesting program at CRC, but it is puzzling that CCHCS does
 28 it there but not at CIM. CCHCS data shows that only 4.6% of CRC's population is
 designated medical high risk, 23 patients have been hospitalized due to COVID-19 and,
 fortunately, none have died.

1 *Defendants' Position:* Defendants note that Plaintiffs have raised issues in this
2 section that appear to be directed to the Receiver's office and CCHCS. Defendants will
3 not attempt to respond on their behalf, but remain committed to working with them in
4 addressing Plaintiffs' concerns.

5 DATED: November 4, 2020

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14
15
16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
17 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, OAKLAND DIVISION**

18 MARCIANO PLATA, et al.,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 GAVIN NEWSOM, et al.,

22 Defendants.

CASE NO. 01-1351 JST

**JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

Judge: Hon. Jon S. Tigar

Date: October 21, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Crtrm.: 6, 2nd Floor

1 The parties submit the following joint statement in advance of the October 21, 2020
2 Case Management Conference.

3 **I. POPULATION REDUCTION**

4 **A. Status**

5 *Plaintiffs' Position:* Today, the California Court of Appeal ruled that the state's
6 failure to provide adequate space to allow for distancing for people housed in San Quentin
7 State Prison during the pandemic violated the Eighth Amendment. The Court ordered that
8 the state expedite the removal from that prison, by means of release or transfer to another
9 prison, the number of people necessary to reduce the population to no more than 1,775
10 (i.e., 50% of the June 2020 population). *See, In re Von Staich*, No. A160122 (Cal. Ct.
11 App. Oct. 20, 2020) attached as Exh. 1.

12 Population reduction remains necessary to minimize the risk of harm from COVID-
13 19, particularly among those at increased risk of harm if infected. As Defendants
14 acknowledge below, reduced population contributes to fewer infections.

15 As previously explained (see ECF No. 3417 at 2:14-3:2), the overall CDCR
16 population reduction since March, while certainly helped by early release programs, has
17 primarily resulted from natural releases and the suspension and limitation of intake. As
18 intake increases, CDCR's total population is likely to increase as well.¹

19 The vast majority of early releases under the three programs CDCR announced in
20 July took place in that month and early August. Since the October 6 Statement, in which
21 CDCR announced the end of two of the three July programs, only 221 early releases have
22 taken place.

23 Following the October 7 Case Management Conference, we asked Defendants to
24

25 ¹ CDCR recently stated that nearly 8,000 people in county jails are awaiting transport
26 to its reception centers. As reported in Part III, below, more than 600 people are being
27 received this week from county jails. If intake continues at such levels, it will soon enough
28 off-set much of any continuing reduction achieved from natural and early releases.

1 have the new CDCR Secretary consider early release of people newly determined to have a
 2 Weighted COVID Risk Score qualifying them under the now-ended July Program that
 3 focuses on those at highest risk of severe complications if infected with COVID-19.
 4 Defendants have not substantively responded to this request, but the clear implication from
 5 their report below is that they will not do so, at least at present.

6 *Defendants' Position:* Since the start of the COVID-19 public health crisis, 23,131
 7 incarcerated people were released from CDCR institutions and camps as of October 14,
 8 2020.² CDCR experienced a population decrease of about 19.7% during this period.
 9 Between July 1 and October 14, 6,185 people were released from institutions and camps as
 10 a result of the COVID-19 early-release programs Defendants announced on July 10.³ This
 11 represents 221 additional early releases since the October 6 case management conference
 12 statement.⁴ An additional 8,498 people were released in accordance with their natural
 13 release date during this period. As of October 14, CDCR's institutions and camps have a
 14 population of 94,211.⁵

15 Responding to Plaintiffs' comment regarding the rate of population reduction above,
 16 Defendants note that CDCR started decreasing its population in late March. CDCR's
 17 population decreased by approximately 4,000 between mid-March and mid-April, over
 18 5,000 more between mid-April and July, nearly 6,000 more in July, and over 5,000 more in
 19 August. To provide a visual of the rate of CDCR's population decrease this year,
 20 Defendants include the below graph. The population data in this graph is sourced from
 21 _____

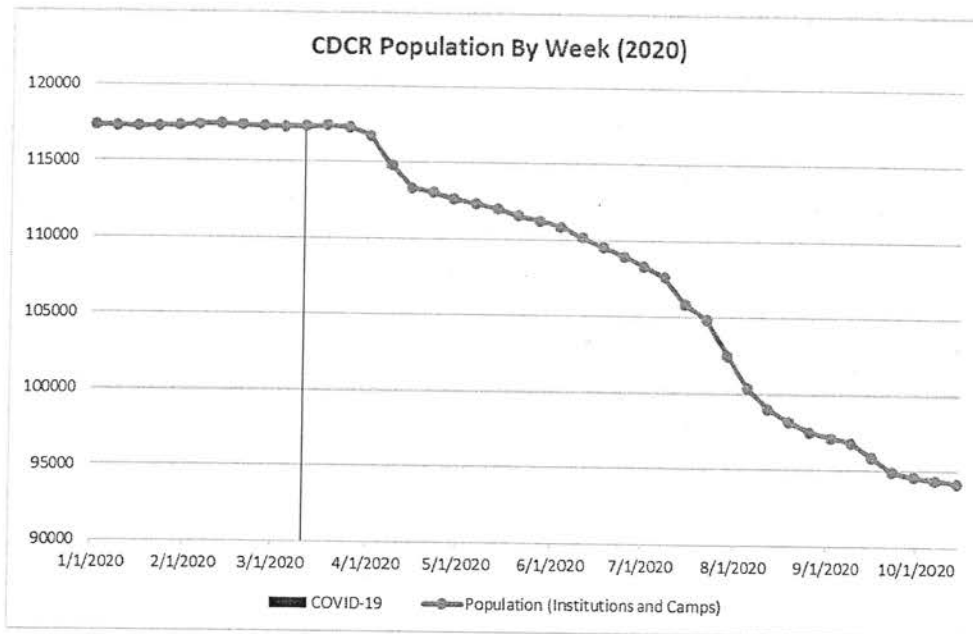
22 ² This figure is calculated by taking the difference between the total population in
 23 institutions and camps on February 26, 2020 and October 14, 2020. Weekly population
 24 reports can be found at [https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/weekly-total-population-report-
 archive-2020/](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/weekly-total-population-report-archive-2020/).

25 ³ See ECF No. 3389 at 2:4-5:4 and <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/expedited-releases/>
 26 for details regarding CDCR's COVID-19 early-release program announced on July 10,
 2020.

27 ⁴ See ECF No. 3460 at 4:3-4.

28 ⁵ See October 14, 2020 weekly population report at [https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-
 content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201014.pdf](https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/wp-content/uploads/sites/174/2020/10/Tpop1d201014.pdf).

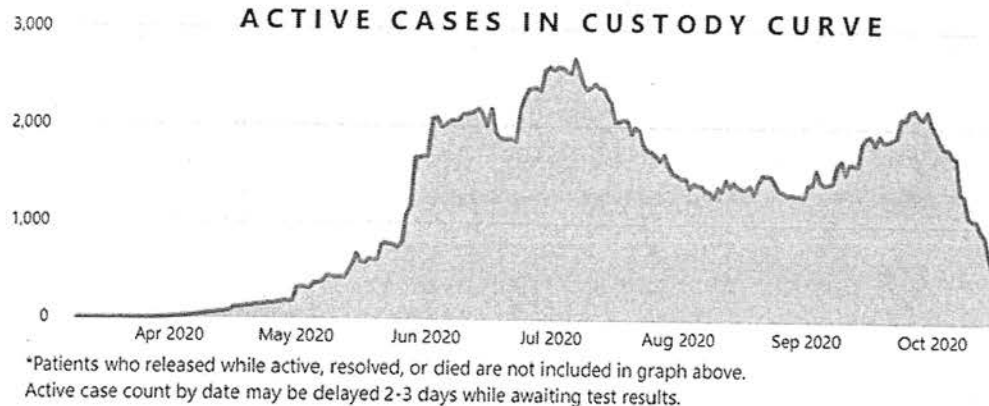
1 CDCR's weekly population reports from January 1 through October 14, 2020.



14 CDCR continues to process early releases on a rolling basis through the 180-day
15 early-release program announced on July 10. CDCR implemented its discretionary early-
16 release program as an added safety measure at a time when more comprehensive COVID-
17 19-related policies were still being developed. Since then, CDCR has adopted additional
18 significant safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including, as described in
19 sections below, a drastic reduction in intake from county jails, comprehensive testing,
20 quarantine, isolation, and movement protocols, policies regarding personal protective
21 equipment, and plans for COVID-19 testing of staff and incarcerated people.

22 Because of the effectiveness of these policies, which CDCR continues to evaluate,
23 improve, and update in close coordination with the Receiver, positivity rates and COVID-
24 19-related complications and deaths have recently trended downwards. As of October 20,
25 fewer than 500 incarcerated people statewide—or less than 1% of CDCR's current

1 population—are COVID-19-positive.⁶ This is the lowest positivity rate CDCR has
 2 experienced since May. The below graph is a screenshot from page 4 of CDCR’s
 3 Population COVID-19 Tracker taken on October 19, showing the number of positive
 4 COVID-19 cases among CDCR’s incarcerated population between March 10 and October
 5 19.



13 Early releases of medically high-risk people continue through the 180-day early-
 14 release program, which has accounted for the vast majority of all early releases since
 15 CDCR’s COVID-19 early-release programs were announced on July 10. And, as set forth
 16 in section V below, the Receiver has indicated that new recommendations related to
 17 medically high-risk people are forthcoming.⁷ In this context, CDCR continues to evaluate
 18 the need to resume the high-risk medical early-release program in addition to its other
 19 ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts.⁸

20

21

22 ⁶ See CDCR’s Population COVID-19 Tracking tool at
 23 <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/population-status-tracking/> (last visited on October 20,
 2020).

24 ⁷ On October 14, the Receiver circulated a draft document to the parties titled “Report on
 25 Risks of COVID to High-Risk Patients.” The current iteration of the report includes
 26 updates to recommended policies related to incarcerated people at a higher risk of
 experiencing complications if they contract COVID-19. The Receiver is accepting
 comments to this report until October 20.

27 ⁸ In the October 6 joint case management conference statement, Defendants reported that
 28 the high-risk medical early-release program, originally announced on July 10, had been
 (footnote continued)

1 CDCR continues to work with county jails to apply 12 weeks of positive
 2 programming credits to eligible people awaiting transfers to CDCR institutions. This
 3 includes identifying people eligible to receive these credits, calculating updated release
 4 dates following the application of credits, and providing release instructions for people
 5 who are released early as a result of the application of these credits.⁹ As of October 9,
 6 2020, CDCR had issued 965 release memoranda for persons incarcerated in county jails
 7 and awaiting transfer to CDCR.

8 **II. TESTING AND TRANSFER PROTOCOLS**

9 *Plaintiffs' Position:* CDCR continues to transfer large numbers of patients between
 10 prisons, with testing and quarantining to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission
 11 governed by CCHCS's August 19 "Movement Matrix." CDCR reports there were 514
 12 such transfers between September 28 and October 4, and 370 between October 5 and 11.
 13 According to CCHCS, there have been "no COVID transmission events . . . among
 14 patients subjected to the movement matrix process."

15 Medical staff, before a patient is transferred between prisons, should check that a
 16 timely COVID test and other requirements of the Movement Matrix have been met. As
 17 noted previously, CCHCS rejected our suggestion that staff complete a checklist before
 18 patients get on a transportation vehicle to minimize the risk that a person is moved without
 19 the necessary quarantine period and a timely negative test. However, at the October 7
 20 Case Management Conference, the Receiver explained that medical staff do use a checklist
 21 when people are transferred, and some prisons had modified it to include Matrix-related
 22 requirements. We then asked that the modified checklist be used at all prisons. CCHCS
 23 on October 16 denied our request. Instead, it stated that its "Nursing Program is cross
 24

25 _____
 26 suspended after the original list of people had been evaluated for early-release eligibility.
 27 See ECF No. 3460 at 6:6-10.

28 ⁹ See ECF No. 3460 at 8:1-9 for further explanation of this positive programming credit
 initiative.

1 referencing [the] current EHRS documentation ‘pre-screening form’ and will modify
2 accordingly to ensure that the transfer matrix requirements are met.” Plaintiffs have
3 requested further information about this process.

4 In addition, to track transfers, CCHCS has developed a “Transfer Registry.”
5 Defendants indicate below that CCHCS implemented the Registry on October 6, and that it
6 is easily accessible to staff. In response to questions we asked last week, CCHCS on
7 October 16 said that on October 12 one session of training had been done with field staff
8 about how the Registry works and that based on feedback received additional training will
9 be developed by the end of this month. It is not clear to Plaintiffs the degree to which the
10 Registry is fully operational, given that training is still being developed.

11 We also last week asked CCHCS about obtaining access to the Registry. Our
12 question was not answered. We believe access to the Registry is necessary to adequately
13 monitor compliance with the Movement Matrix.

14 *Defendants’ Position:* Since the current iteration of the movement matrix went
15 into effect on August 21, 2020, DAI, CCHCS, and leadership teams at all institutions have
16 held meetings, conference calls, and training sessions to help staff understand and
17 implement the matrix. As directed by the matrix, movement is limited and controlled, and
18 must be pre-approved by CDCR headquarters, which is working in collaboration with
19 CCHCS (including Mr. Cullen and Dr. Bick). Additionally, there is continued
20 enforcement of the safety protocols requiring all county staff and incarcerated people
21 arriving to CDCR on intake buses to wear N95 masks. Further, CDCR and CCHCS
22 continue to utilize measures to track patient information for transfers. Staff at each prison
23 have procedures and processes in place to follow the requirements of the matrix. Further,
24 on October 6, 2020, CCHCS implemented an online registry to track all transfer
25 information for incarcerated people. The registry is easily accessible, updateable, and
26 contains comprehensive information that allows staff to review medical and other
27 important data before, during, and after transfers. Finally, the prisons continue to offer
28 comprehensive COVID-19 testing for incarcerated people, and the specific protocols for

1 each prison are outlined for Plaintiffs during routine calls with CCHCS staff.

2 **III. INTAKE**

3 *Plaintiffs' Position:* Plaintiffs remain concerned about the admission of additional
 4 people to CDCR prisons at this time. In compliance with Court's July 22 Order, the
 5 parties and the Receiver continue to meet and confer to ensure the space allocated for
 6 quarantine and isolation at each prison is adequate to respond to a COVID outbreak.
 7 Moreover, as set forth in § V., the Receiver recently issued a draft report urging
 8 Defendants to offer celled housing to all those considered medically vulnerable to COVID-
 9 19 who now live in dorms. Admitting additional people to the CDCR population before
 10 the quarantine and isolation allocation is finalized and these potential transfers are
 11 addressed could put pressure on already stressed quarantine space and result in further
 12 spread of the virus.

13 Defendants reopened intake to their facilities on August 24, admitting a total of 100
 14 people the first week and 200 the following week. This "limited intake" would, according
 15 to Defendants, allow CDCR and CCHCS to test their processes, mitigate risk and ensure
 16 safety. *See* ECF No. 3436 at 10. Two weeks later, Defendants wrote, "CDCR expects to
 17 adopt a schedule for intake that will include some limited number of weeks for intake
 18 followed by one or two weeks of no intake, repeated for the foreseeable future. For
 19 instance, 3 weeks of intake, followed by a 1 or 2 week pause, then 3 weeks of intake."
 20 ECF No. 3449 at 11. However, Defendants have seemingly abandoned their measured
 21 approach to intake. Since September 20, Defendants have admitted between
 22 approximately 143 to 360 people each week. *See* ECF No. 3460 at 10-11. For the current
 23 week, Defendants say they plan to admit 610 people.

24 *Defendants' Position:* CDCR accepted 215 incarcerated persons into custody via
 25 county jail intake the week of October 4, and 322 incarcerated persons the week of
 26 October 11, as follows:

Week of:	Number of Incarcerated Persons	Sending County	Receiving Institution

1	October 4	132	Stanislaus	WSP
2	October 4	83	San Diego	NKSP
3	Total Week of	215		
4	October 4:			
5	October 11	25	Shasta	NKSP
6	October 11	145	Orange	NKSP
7	October 11	123	Kern	WSP
8	October 11	10	Kings	CCWF
9	October 11	6	Stanislaus	CCWF
10	October 11	12	Kern	CCWF
11	Total Week of	322		
12	October 11:			

13 Each week, CDCR headquarters meets with leadership from NKSP, WSP, and
 14 CCWF, as well as CCHCS, to determine whether the institutions should permit intake the
 15 following week, and if so, how much space is available such that social distancing of
 16 newly arriving incarcerated persons can safely be accomplished during the initial
 17 quarantine period. For the week of October 18, CDCR has authorized intake as follows:

18	Number of Incarcerated	Sending County	Receiving Institution
19	Persons		
20	30	Humboldt	NKSP
21	30	Shasta	NKSP
22	100	Butte	NKSP
23	10	Plumas	NKSP
24	10	Modoc	NKSP
25	50	Napa	NKSP
26	40	Contra Costa	NKSP
27	50	Sutter	NKSP
28	90	Los Angeles	WSP

1	160	San Bernardino	WSP
2	40	Orange	CCWF
3	Total Week of October	610	
4	18:		

5
6 As Defendants have reported in previous Case Management Statements, CDCR is
7 working tirelessly to ensure that sending counties are complying with all intake protocols,
8 including testing of incarcerated persons in advance of transport and wearing of N95
9 masks by both incarcerated persons and transportation staff at all times during transport.
10 CDCR requires strict compliance with its protocol. By way of example, a bus arrived at
11 CCWF during the week of October 4, but the sending county had failed to provide CCWF
12 with COVID-19 test results in advance of arrival for three incarcerated persons.
13 Additionally, upon inspection of the bus at the vehicle sallyport, CCWF medical staff
14 observed that the neither the sending county's transportation staff nor any of the
15 incarcerated persons being transported were wearing N95 masks. Accordingly, the bus
16 was not allowed to enter CCWF and the incarcerated persons were returned to the sending
17 county.

18 CDCR also coordinates intake with the sending counties to ensure that it is spread
19 across multiple days within the week to better enable staff at the receiving institution to
20 ensure social distancing during the intake process.

21 CDCR remains in communication each week with the California State Sheriffs'
22 Association to determine which counties have the greatest need and are able to comply
23 with CDCR's strict transfer protocol.

24 **IV. QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION**

25 *Plaintiffs' Position:*

26 **A. Set Aside of Quarantine and Isolation Space**

27 Defendants have identified COVID-19 quarantine and isolation space at every
28 prison to be used in the event of an outbreak, as ordered by this Court on July 22. ECF

1 No. 3401 at 3-4. Based upon information we received from Defendants on October 16, it
2 appears that this space has been vacated, in compliance with the Court's orders on July 22
3 and September 22. ECF Nos. 3401 at 3-4 and 3460 at 2. On September 16, Plaintiffs
4 requested modifications to that set-aside space, as allowed by the Court's order. *Id.* On
5 October 15, CCHCS responded.

6 Plaintiffs' first ground for requesting modifications was that many of the quarantine
7 set-asides are dorms or tiered cell blocks without solid doors -- exactly the sort of
8 congregate living environments, with shared airspaces, that have allowed rapid and
9 uncontrolled spread of the virus in the prisons. The Public Health Workgroup recognized
10 that people exposed to the virus "must be separated from each other in single cells with
11 solid doors." Several thousand people incarcerated in CDCR are presently quarantined in
12 dorms or cells with barred or perforated doors, in direct contradiction to that guidance.

13 The response from CCHCS recognized these concerns but did not provide a clear
14 response to how patients in prisons without solid-door celled quarantine space would be
15 protected from an unreasonable risk of harm.

16 Plaintiffs' second ground for requesting modification was a concern that general
17 population patients might refuse to move to isolation or quarantine space located on a
18 sensitive needs yard, and vice versa, due to fears that they might experience violent
19 reprisals from other incarcerated people as a result. People could refuse tests for the same
20 reason. Multiple refusals could create a public health problem. CCHCS responded that
21 isolation and quarantine space was akin to Administrative Segregation, where general
22 population and sensitive needs populations are mixed. Finally, CCHCS provided specific
23 responses to our institution-specific concerns and noted that, subsequent to Plaintiffs'
24 September 16 letter, CDCR set aside additional beds for isolation and quarantine at some
25 prisons. We then asked and received from CDCR a current draft of all set aside space.
26 Plaintiffs will review the additional space and CCHCS's responses to determine whether
27 we think our concerns have been adequately addressed.

28 **B. Development of Policies Related to Quarantine and Isolation**

1 As reported in the last two Case Management Conferences, Plaintiffs have asked
2 the Receiver to consider developing two policies related to quarantine and isolation: (a)
3 guidance regarding when people should be quarantined or isolated in a space other than the
4 set-aside space, and (b) procedures and time-frames for placing patients in isolation or
5 quarantine once positive test results are received or information is received regarding an
6 exposure. *See* ECF No. 3448 at 12-13; ECF No. 3460 at 14.

7 Although CCHCS has provided responses to the above requests, plaintiffs are
8 pursuing clarification.

9 We have also asked CCHCS to issue a directive to ensure that those placed in
10 isolation due to symptoms who are pending a COVID-19 test results are kept separate from
11 those who are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. CCHCS on October 16 responded that
12 this message has been provided to the field in regularly scheduled phone conferences, and
13 will be addressed in the next iteration of the Movement Matrix.

14 **C. Monitoring Use of Quarantine and Isolation Space**

15 Plaintiffs must be able to adequately monitor the use of quarantine and isolation
16 space, including to ensure that incarcerated people are not placed at risk of harm and so
17 that we can determine whether to request that further space be set aside. CCHCS has
18 developed a template—called an Outbreak Management Tool—that prisons will use on a
19 daily basis to report on matters related to COVID-19, including information on numbers
20 and housing locations of patients in quarantine and isolation. We sent CCHCS comments
21 on a draft version of the template, and were told on October 2 that CCHCS is in the
22 process of automating the tool, and that completed copies of these daily reports will be
23 provided to Plaintiffs once they are in use at the prisons. On October 16, CCHCS said that
24 work on a partially automated Tool was expected to be completed last week, would then be
25 distributed to the prisons for feedback, and that it anticipated a partially automated version
26 would be available by the end of this month.

27 While providing the above information, CCHCS did not last week respond to our
28 question regarding when we will be provided access to the Outbreak Management Tool as

1 completed by the various prisons. We understand, including because weeks ago CCHCS
2 provided us a copy of one, that the prisons are currently completing and forwarding the
3 tool to regional and central office managers. Given that earlier this month CCHCS said we
4 would be provided copies, it is not clear why we are not regularly receiving them. We
5 believe access to this information is necessary for adequate monitoring and would
6 significantly improve our understanding of outbreak response.

7 *Defendants' Position:* CDCR has completed its effort to set aside vast quantities of
8 previously identified isolation and quarantine space at the prisons. As discussed at the last
9 case-management conference, only one prison—California State Prison, Los Angeles
10 County (LAC)—still needed to vacate its identified isolation and quarantine space. LAC
11 completed that process on October 9, 2020, and all identified quarantine and isolation
12 space is now either ready for occupancy or is already being used for quarantine or
13 isolation.

14 Plaintiffs submitted a number of concerns about current isolation and quarantine
15 reserves to the Receiver in September and the Receiver responded to those concerns on
16 October 15, 2020. Additionally, the Receiver's office arranged a meeting on October 5 for
17 the parties in *Plata, Coleman, and Armstrong* to further discuss isolation and quarantine
18 issues with the Receiver, the *Coleman* Special Master, and the *Armstrong* Court Expert.
19 The Receiver held a follow-up to that meeting on October 15, 2020. The focus of the
20 October 15 meeting was ensuring that appropriate isolation and quarantine space would be
21 available for enhanced-outpatient *Coleman* class members. Significant progress toward
22 achieving that goal was made at the October 15 meeting, and the Receiver scheduled
23 another follow-up meeting on October 27, 2020, to allow the parties to further discuss
24 quarantine and isolation.

25 **V. SAFELY HOUSING MEDICALLY VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

26 *Plaintiffs' Position:* CDCR continues to house people in large congregate living
27
28

1 areas, including thousands who, based on age and/or their medical condition, are
2 particularly vulnerable to severe illness or death from COVID-19.¹⁰ In these dorms and
3 open-cell-front living units, large numbers of people share airspace, including sleeping
4 areas, bathrooms, and showers. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
5 (“CDC”) recently confirmed that COVID-19 can be spread by aerosolization, and the
6 number and rate of infections in CDCR in the first seven months of the pandemic show
7 that the virus spreads rapidly when introduced into dorms and open-cell-front housing.
8 Because the risk of infection is so much greater in these environments, they are
9 particularly dangerous for medically vulnerable people, placing them at heightened risk of
10 severe illness or death.

11 In an effort to address this situation, the Receiver on October 14 circulated a Draft
12 Report entitled, “Report on Risks of COVID to High-Risk Patients.”¹¹ Recognizing the
13 high risks of morbidity and mortality for people with COVID-19 risk-factors, he
14 recommends that “CDCR extend an offer to the over 8,200 patients with COVID-19 risk
15 scores of 3 and above who are currently housed in dorms or open-cell-front housing the
16 opportunity to transfer into closed-front cells either at their existing institution or at
17 another institution.” Having consulted with our public health expert, Dr. Adam Lauring,
18 Plaintiffs endorse this recommendation, and are continuing to discuss whether the CDCR
19 should do more than extend an offer to those at high medical risk for COVID-19.

20 To date large percentages of medically vulnerable patients have declined offers to
21 move from dorms to cells. Last week we mailed a questionnaire to each of these patients,
22 in the hope of better understanding why they did not want to move and whether there are
23 circumstances under which they would.

24 _____
25 ¹⁰ As noted in the previous Joint Case Management Conference Statement, celled housing
26 has already been offered to a small number of medically vulnerable people in dorms, and
the acceptance rate has been low.

27 ¹¹ The parties have been invited to submit comments on the report by Tuesday, October
28 20.

1 *Defendants' Position:* The Receiver has provided the parties with a draft report
2 that proposes that CDCR should offer over 8,000 HRM patients living in dorms the
3 opportunity to move into a single cell. The Report is still awaiting further comments and
4 the Defendants remain committed to working with the Receiver to facilitate movements of
5 medically high-risk patients from dorms to cells, or any other movements, to safely house
6 medically high-risk patients when such movement is recommended and approved by the
7 appropriate public health and corrections experts.

8 Defendants note that Plaintiffs have raised issues in this section that appear to be
9 directed to the Receiver's office and CCHCS. Defendants will not attempt to respond on
10 their behalf, but remain committed to working with them in addressing Plaintiffs'
11 concerns.

12 **VI. COVID-19 TESTING**

13 **A. Staff Testing**

14 *Plaintiffs' Position:* As reported in prior Joint Case Management Conference
15 Statements, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in August reported significant
16 problems with the entrance screening practices in CDCR. *See* ECF No. 3427 at 14-15;
17 ECF No. 3436 at 18-19; ECF No. 3460 at 18; Office of the Inspector General, *COVID-19*
18 *Review Series, Part One: Inconsistent Screening Practices May Have Increased the Risk of*
19 *COVID-19 Within California's Prison System* (August 2020), [https://www.oig.ca.gov/wp-](https://www.oig.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/OIG-COVID-19-Review-Series-Part-1-Screening.pdf)
20 [content/uploads/2020/08/OIG-COVID-19-Review-Series-Part-1-Screening.pdf](https://www.oig.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/OIG-COVID-19-Review-Series-Part-1-Screening.pdf). On
21 October 8, CCHCS issued a memorandum to standardize the entrance screening practices
22 at all prisons. The memorandum directs each prison to identify and submit a screening
23 location for approval, provide training for employees conducting the screening, and
24 regularly audit and report on compliance with screening procedures. We hope this will
25 result in reliable, consistent screenings of all staff entering the prisons.

26 Regarding staff testing, CCHCS took over authority for staff testing in August, and
27 on September 14, distributed its draft "Employee Testing Guidance" to the parties.
28 Plaintiffs provided comments to CCHCS on September 23. On October 2, CCHCS said it

1 had reviewed our comments and would be providing responses, as well as a revised
2 version of the Testing Guidance, the following week. On October 16, in response to our
3 query, CCHCS stated it was still finalizing the revised Testing Guidance. CCHCS also
4 reported it was finalizing an Employee Testing Budget Proposal, so that nursing staff could
5 be hired to conduct onsite testing seven days a week. CCHCS reported that, currently,
6 employee testing is still conducted by vendors, and is only done five days a week. CCHCS
7 stated they anticipated nursing staff would be conducting employee testing by December
8 2020. As we have previously stated, we appreciate the steps CCHCS is taking to
9 implement an effective staff testing program, but, seven months into the pandemic, regret
10 that such necessary action was not taken by CDCR or CCHCS sooner.

11 Finally, in response to our request for reports on the staff testing completed in
12 August and September at CHCF, CMF, and CCWF, CCHCS on October 16 stated that
13 reports for staff testing are still being developed, and that no reports have been finalized.
14 We acknowledge the difficulty of developing a comprehensive reporting system, but are
15 eager to receive these reports, as we currently have no way to monitor whether and when
16 employees have been re-tested.

17 *Defendants' Position:* On September 14, the Receiver's Office shared the
18 employee testing guidance with the parties and requested comments, if any, by September
19 21. CDCR continues working closely with CCHCS to maintain the current staff testing
20 procedures and to ensure a smooth and easy transition of the staff testing-responsibilities to
21 CCHCS. CDCR also remains committed to continuing to work with CCHCS to answer
22 any questions Plaintiffs might have about the status of and processes for staff testing until
23 the transition to CCHCS has been completed.

24 **B. Incarcerated Population Testing**

25 *Plaintiffs' Position:*

26 **1. Patient Testing Policies**

27 The Receiver at the October 7 Case Management Conference said, as we
28 understood it, that CCHCS would revise its patient testing policies so that serial retesting

1 was mandated in certain circumstances. We hope to soon see this and other revisions.

2 Another issue has recently arisen related to CCHCS's increasing reliance on a
3 particular Point of Care (POC, sometimes referred to as a rapid) antigen test. As we
4 understand it, this test is FDA-approved for use on symptomatic patients, but is widely
5 used, including by CCHCS, for those without symptoms. Earlier this month, five patients
6 without symptoms at the California Medical Facility (CMF) were declared to have
7 COVID-19 and placed in isolation due to positive POC tests. However, and fortunately,
8 CMF doctors ordered retests using the more traditional lab testing, and determined the
9 earlier results were false positives: none of the patients in fact were infected. We believe
10 CCHCS practices vary statewide as to whether POC positive results are confirmed by
11 subsequent lab tests, and that without confirming lab tests, placing patients into medical
12 isolation with others who are in fact infected is dangerous. Under current CCHCS policy,
13 people in isolation can be grouped and housed together. We asked CCHCS to implement a
14 mandate requiring lab retests of POC positive patients, and that such patients not be mixed
15 with others in isolation until confirming lab results are received. On October 16, CCHCS
16 said it uses the POC tests consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
17 California Department of Public Health guidelines, but that as it "gain[s] more experience"
18 it "may modify" its approach.

19 2. Reports and Monitoring of Serial Retesting

20 CCHCS reports that work has been done on developing an automated reporting and
21 monitoring process regarding whether ordered serial retesting of patients is actually done,
22 but that further work has been deferred pending completion and release of the Transfer
23 Registry. We continue to hope that this can be completed soon.

24 3. Notification to Patients of Test Results

25 CCHCS on October 16 said initial testing of automated test result processes, using
26 standardized templates, has been completed and approved by its leadership, and the
27 processes are now undergoing final testing. It also provided copies of the standardized
28 templates, which are very well done. We have asked that the notification template for

1 positive patients be modified to, among other things, explain that nurses will check blood
2 oxygen levels, given the central importance of that check in the monitoring of COVID-19
3 patients.

4 *Defendants' Position:* Defendants note that Plaintiffs have raised issues in this
5 section that appear to be directed to the Receiver's office and CCHCS. Defendants will
6 not attempt to respond on their behalf, but remain committed to working with them in
7 addressing Plaintiffs' concerns.

8 **VII. Prison-Specific Updates**

9 *Plaintiffs' Position:*

10 We continue to have a weekly conference regarding prison-specific COVID-related
11 matters with the CCHCS Regional Medical Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and the
12 Deputy Director who supervises them. We have been able to raise concerns that have
13 resulted in what we consider major improvements in COVID risk reduction measures and
14 conditions for patients, highlight other concerns, and learn of initiatives undertaken at
15 particular prisons.

16 For example, we believe the weekly conferences resulted in programs to serially
17 test every week never-positive patients at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) and
18 California Institution for Men (CIM), prisons where, despite large numbers of COVID
19 infections for months, comprehensive retesting such as is being done at San Quentin and
20 Folsom had not been instituted. At CIM, we learned that to implement serial testing,
21 CCHCS in the last two weeks arranged for approximately 20 additional nurses, a laudable
22 effort. The weekly conferences also resulted in patients on medical isolation and
23 quarantine being offered some outdoor exercise at Salinas Valley State Prison, where some
24 had been locked in their cells for weeks, even though other prisons, including the
25 Correctional Training Facility located almost literally across the street, routinely provided
26 outdoor exercise opportunities to those on isolation and quarantine.

27 Our questions at the conferences also revealed that at CIM, nearly 50 people who
28 medical staff determined had been exposed to COVID-19 were quarantined together in a

1 gym, even though single cells with solid doors—which CCHCS mandates be used if
2 available—were available. Further, the patients quarantined together came from four
3 different housing units; the Regional CEO was not able to explain how this was consistent
4 with the CCHCS mandates that if people are quarantined together they must have the same
5 date and type of exposure. Subsequently, a number of people in the gym tested positive.

6 Similarly, we were able to confirm that at CRC this past summer people were
7 quarantined in a particular dorm for months, with people from another dorm, with
8 seemingly different exposure dates or sources, brought into same dorm. For weeks, new
9 infections were repeatedly identified, with only four people remaining uninfected at the
10 end of the quarantine period. The dorm acted as an incubator for COVID-19, and this
11 unfortunate experience shows again why quarantine in single cells with solid cells must be
12 done.¹²

13 Finally, we have learned via the conferences that a decision is expected shortly on
14 whether to enter into a contract to study and test the ventilation systems in San Quentin's
15 five-tier East, South, and West Block ventilation systems, as those systems relate to
16 possible transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. This is important because those
17 units have peculiar ventilation, in which air in the building is drawn into each cell, a
18 concern given that it is now recognized that the virus is in the air. We appreciate
19 CCHCS's and CDCR's undertaking of this initiative.

20 *Defendants' Position:* Defendants note that Plaintiffs have raised issues in this
21 section that appear to be directed to the Receiver's office and CCHCS. Defendants will
22 not attempt to respond on their behalf, but remain committed to working with them in
23 addressing Plaintiffs' concerns.

24 _____
25 ¹² CRC has less than a handful of cells. CCHCS and CDCR have within the last two
26 weeks installed tents at the prison, in which they intend to house, in cohorts of four or five,
27 those who are at high risk of severe complications if infected with COVID-19 who are not
28 yet infected. In that way, they hope to limit the spread of COVID-19 among those
patients. Still, single cell quarantining cannot occur.

1 **VIII. Updates on Medical Care Matters Not Directly Related to COVID-19**

2 *Plaintiffs' Position:* We previously reported, and discussed at the October 7 Case
3 Management Conference, that there are now approximately 4,700 patients who are ordered
4 and receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for a substance use disorder, and
5 more than 6,000 patients awaiting the necessary addiction medicine physician appointment
6 to be considered for such an order, with more than 80% of those appointments overdue.
7 Many of those appointments are several months overdue.

8 On October 12 we asked CCHCS to begin providing us monthly data on overdue
9 addiction medicine physician appointments. CCHCS on October 16 said it would do so
10 starting at the end of November. We appreciate that this will be done.

11 Also on October 12 we asked CCHCS to take immediate action to increase the
12 number of Addiction Medicine physician appointments currently provided, so that the
13 backlog can be substantially reduced as soon as possible. Our concern about the backlog
14 was heightened by our review of the records of a CCHCS patient who recently died. In
15 May, the patient twice submitted written requests for care, describing his problems with
16 heroin and asking for MAT so he could he could get help to "sober up." That same
17 month, a primary care visit documented that he used heroin daily. On June 9, the patient
18 was seen by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who determined he was at "high risk" for
19 matters related to opioid use and ordered an Addiction Medicine physician appointment
20 within 14 days. On June 11, that appointment was scheduled for June 25; however, it was
21 then successively rescheduled to July 16, August 6, and then November 26. The records
22 do not appear to include a reason why the appointment was repeatedly rescheduled; we
23 believe it was due to the backlog.

24 On October 2, the patient was found unresponsive in his cell. Narcan was given
25 with minimal improvement, apparently, and he was emergently transported to a local
26 hospital. The hospital record reports that "a needle was found next to him" when found
27 unresponsive in his cell, and state that patient had a "possible overdose" or "opioid
28 overdose." The next day, the patient died.

1 *Defendants' Position:* Defendants note that Plaintiffs have raised issues in this
2 section that appear to be directed to the Receiver's office and CCHCS. Defendants will
3 not attempt to respond on their behalf, but remain committed to working with them in
4 addressing Plaintiffs' concerns.

5 DATED: October 20, 2020

HANSON BRIDGETT LLP

6
7
8 By: /s/ Samantha Wolff

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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **OAKLAND DIVISION**

13 MARCIANO PLATA, et al.,
14 Plaintiffs,
15 v.
16 GAVIN NEWSOM, et al.,
17 Defendants.

CASE NO. 01-1351 JST

**DECLARATION OF ANNE SPAULDING
IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS'
RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS'
PROPOSED ORDER RE: QUARANTINE
AND ISOLATION SPACE**

Judge: Hon. Jon S. Tigar

18
19
20 I, Anne Spaulding, declare:

21 1. I am currently an Associate Professor of Epidemiology with tenure at Rollins
22 School of Public Health, Emory University. I am also an Associate Professor of Medicine at
23 Emory School of Medicine, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Morehouse School of
24 Medicine. A copy of my curriculum vitae is attached as Exhibit A.

25 2. I obtained my M.D. degree from the Medical College of Virginia and my Master of
26 Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

27 3. Through my career, I have gained significant experience in the field of correctional
28 healthcare and public health. For example, I have served as a Staff Physician and as an Infectious

1 Disease Consultant for Fulton County Jail in Georgia; a Physician Consultant and an Infectious
2 Disease Consultant for Georgia Correctional Health Care and the Medical College of Georgia; an
3 Associate Statewide Medical Director for Georgia Correctional Health Care and the Medical
4 College of Georgia; and a Medical Program Director for the Rhode Island Department of
5 Corrections. I have also lectured on subjects related to correctional healthcare and public health at
6 Johns Hopkins, Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Brown
7 University. I have also given talks and presentations at a number of national and international
8 conferences and meetings on subjects related to correctional healthcare and public health. In fact,
9 on July 14, 2020, I presented a webinar on COVID-19 via a contractor for the U.S. Department of
10 State to leadership in the state and federal prisons of Mexico. The presentation included an
11 extensive discussion about best practices for mitigating COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

12 4. I am familiar with the developing scientific literature regarding COVID-19,
13 including the transmission and prevention of the virus.

14 5. Counsel for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
15 have retained me to consult with CDCR regarding its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to
16 assist with litigation in this proceeding if necessary. I look forward to helping CDCR and look
17 forward to meeting with other public health experts who are involved in this case and CDCR's
18 response to the current pandemic.

19 6. I have carefully reviewed the information that is available from CDCR's patient
20 tracker, which is found on CDCR's website.

21 7. I understand that the Receiver recently devised a methodology for estimating the
22 amount of isolation and quarantine space that might be needed at each of California's thirty-five
23 correctional facilities. I have reviewed that methodology, which states:

24 To plan for the possibility of a large-scale outbreak of COVID-19, each
25 facility in each prison shall identify space that will allow for rapid
26 isolation and quarantine of impacted patients. Each facility shall identify
27 its largest congregate living space. Each facility shall maintain empty
28 beds equivalent to the capacity of its largest congregate living space or
20% of the current population of the facility, whichever is larger.

8. I am not aware of any other prison system using a formula like the one devised by

1 the Receiver for this purpose. And I agree with Plaintiffs' expert Dr. Adam Lauring in his
2 assessment that there is no current consensus among the scientific community about how to
3 determine exactly how much space is enough in a correctional institution for this purpose.

4 9. I understand that the Receiver based the methodology he devised for determining
5 needed isolation and quarantine space on his experience during the pandemic with outbreaks of
6 different sizes in the prisons, including four large outbreaks that have occurred—California
7 Institution for Men, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, and Avenal State Prison, and San Quentin.
8 I have been informed that all four of those outbreaks occurred before CDCR started conducting
9 extensive staff testing and at least one of those outbreaks—California Institution for Men—started
10 before extensive testing of staff or incarcerated persons had commenced, and even before certain
11 basic measures, such as mandatory mask wearing, had been implemented in the prisons. I have
12 also been informed that one of those large outbreaks—San Quentin—appears to have been caused
13 by an unfortunate decision to transfer residents from a prison with a very large active outbreak to a
14 prison that previously had no known cases of COVID-19—a mistake that is unlikely to be
15 repeated. Thus, these outbreaks, while informative, are likely not the best predictors of how future
16 outbreaks will unfold now that CDCR has implemented preventative measures (such as mask
17 wearing), taken steps to identify outbreaks sooner through extensive COVID-19 testing of
18 incarcerated persons and staff, placed restrictions on the transfer of residents between institutions,
19 and learned from experience how to respond to and contain outbreaks.

20 10. I agree that it is important to have space available for quarantine and isolation
21 purposes in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in CDCR's prisons, but I disagree that the best
22 way for determining the amount of space needed is to consider the size of outbreaks that occurred
23 under circumstances that no longer exist. Additionally, I would like to discuss with CDCR and
24 the Receiver other available options to ensure that space is available, such as rapid establishment
25 of more beds via emergency structures.

26 11. It is significant that CDCR is now conducting regular staff and population testing
27 because those measure will help CDCR to identify outbreaks while they remain small. If
28 outbreaks are identified while they are still relatively small, fewer residents need to be isolated and

1 quarantined. Thus, the extensive testing that is now underway should reduce the amount of
2 reserved space needed for quarantine and isolation purposes.

3 12. I also understand that the goal of the Receiver's methodology "is to ensure to the
4 extent reasonably feasible that each institution has enough beds to handle the beginning phases of
5 an outbreak in order to significantly reduce the risk of it blossoming into a medium-sized or large
6 outbreak." This stated rationale does not seem to make sense because if outbreaks are caught in
7 their beginning phases, it should not be necessary to have isolation and quarantine space for
8 twenty percent of each prison's population, which is what the Receiver's methodology requires.

9 13. I also understand that some prisons have large numbers of residents who have
10 already contracted and recovered from COVID-19. People who have already contracted and
11 recovered from COVID-19 are very unlikely to contract it again in the following three months and
12 possibly longer. This is a significant fact because prisons that have large numbers of residents
13 who have already contracted and recovered from COVID-19 will likely need less space for
14 quarantine and isolation for some period following an outbreak.

15 14. A primary concern I have with the Receiver's methodology is that it may require
16 far more space to be set aside at a particular prison than is necessary. Reserving a large amount of
17 vacant housing space, rather than lowering the population density in each housing unit, may have
18 an unintended consequence of increasing the likelihood of transmission of infection in a facility.
19 Some of the reserved space called for under the Receiver's methodology might be better used to
20 spread out the population or to house medically high-risk patients. Setting aside an excessive
21 amount of space for isolation and quarantine might also force CDCR to unnecessarily transfer
22 residents between prisons in order to set aside the required amount of space if the Receiver's
23 methodology were mandated. Because inter-prison transfers can increase the risk of virus
24 transmission, transfers should be avoided if they are not necessary.

25 15. I have been advised that CDCR is considering a plan to set aside one entire housing
26 unit at each of its prisons for isolation and quarantine purposes and that these housing units would
27 have a minimum of 100 available beds. I would like to hear more details about this plan so that I
28 can better assess it, but it generally appears that a plan like this would comport with public health

1 guidance by reserving space at each institution so that incarcerated persons could be readily
2 isolated in the early phases of an outbreak to prevent the outbreak from spreading. I understand
3 that this plan would result in less reserved space than the Receiver's plan, which seems to require
4 an excessive amount of reserved space at each prison based on an assumption that future outbreaks
5 will look similar to the four very large outbreaks that have occurred so far.

6 16. I also believe that CDCR's plan will allow CDCR greater flexibility in how it
7 utilizes available space at each of the prisons. I believe it is in the State's best interest to
8 implement a quarantine and isolation plan that provides them with the utmost flexibility. The
9 science surrounding COVID-19 is changing on a daily basis. We are constantly learning more
10 about this novel coronavirus, and as we learn more, CDCR officials need the flexibility to react to
11 the new science in real time. For instance, whereas the Centers for Disease Control and
12 Prevention ("CDC") previously recommended that persons with laboratory-diagnosed COVID-19
13 be housed ideally in individual rooms, that guidance was changed on July 14, 2020, and the CDC
14 now recommends using one large space to cohort COVID-19-positive individuals for medical
15 isolation so as to conserve PPE and reduce the chance of cross-contamination within the facility.

16
17 I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this document, and its contents are true
18 and correct to the best of my knowledge. Executed on July 19, 2020, in Decatur, Georgia.

19
20 
21 ANNE SPAULDING

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25 Type text here

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EXHIBIT 4

In-Custody Population at San Quentin State Prison by Sentence Type as of October 31, 2020	
In-Custody Population	October
Determinate Sentencing	
Law	724
Second Striker	385
Third Striker	333
Lifer	748
LWOP	1
Condemned	660
Total	2,851

In-Custody Population at San Quentin State Prison by Serious and Violent Status as of October 31, 2020	
In-Custody Population	October
Current Violent	1,698
Current Serious	269
Current Serious and Violent	618
No current Serious or Violent	266
Others	-
Total	2,851

In-Custody Population at San Quentin State Prison by Sex Registrant Status as of October 31, 2020	
In-Custody Population	October
Sex Registrants	848

EXHIBIT 5

CDCR Number	Inmate's Name	MH Level of Care	DDP Code	ADA Code	Transfer Date	Transfer from Location	Transfer to Location	Prior Bed Program	Bed Program
AW7920	MURRAY, MATTHEW	GP	NCF		10/28/2020	HDSP	SVSP		
					10/29/2020	ISP	CAL		
					10/26/2020	ISP	CMF		
					10/28/2020	ISP	KVSP		
					10/28/2020	ISP	KVSP		
					10/28/2020	ISP	KVSP		
					10/28/2020	ISP	SATF		
					10/26/2020	ISP	SATF		
					10/28/2020	ISP	SATF		
					10/26/2020	KVSP	SAC		
					10/26/2020	KVSP	SVSP		
					10/29/2020	KVSP	WSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	CAL		
					10/30/2020	LAC	CAL		
					10/30/2020	LAC	CAL		
					10/30/2020	LAC	CEN		
					10/30/2020	LAC	COR		
					10/30/2020	LAC	COR		
					10/30/2020	LAC	COR		
					10/30/2020	LAC	COR		
					10/30/2020	LAC	COR		
					10/30/2020	LAC	COR		
					10/30/2020	LAC	COR		
					10/26/2020	LAC	CTF		
					10/26/2020	LAC	CTF		
					10/29/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/28/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/28/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/29/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/29/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/28/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/29/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/28/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/29/2020	LAC	HDSP		
					10/28/2020	LAC	KVSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	KVSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	KVSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	PVSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	PVSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	RJD		
					10/31/2020	LAC	RJD		
					10/30/2020	LAC	SOL		
					10/30/2020	LAC	SVSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	SVSP		
					10/30/2020	LAC	SVSP		
					10/26/2020	MCSP	KVSP		
					10/30/2020	MCSP	LAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/29/2020	MCSP	SAC		
					10/28/2020	MCSP	SCC		
					10/27/2020	MCSP	SVSP		
					10/30/2020	MCSP	SVSP		

EXHIBIT 6

Weekly Report of Population
 As of Midnight November 11, 2020

Total CDCR Population

Population	Felon/ Other	Change Since Last Week	Change Since Last Year	Design Capacity	Percent Occupied	Staffed Capacity
A. Total In-Custody/CRPP Supervision	<u>97,753</u>	<u>+139</u>	<u>-26,935</u>			
I. In-State	<u>97,753</u>	<u>+139</u>	<u>-26,935</u>			
(Men, Subtotal)	94,238	+148	-24,872			
(Women, Subtotal)	3,515	-9	-2,063			
1. Institution/Camps	<u>94,340</u>	<u>+156</u>	<u>-23,384</u>	89,663	105.2	126,442
Institutions	92,605	+217	-22,120	85,083	108.8	122,208
Camps(CCC, CIW, and SCC)	1,735	-61	-1,264	4,580	37.9	4,234
2. In-State Contract Beds	<u>2,529</u>	<u>-19</u>	<u>-2,961</u>			
Public Community Correctional Facilities	395	-1	-1,270			
Community Prisoner Mother Program	7	0	-17			
California City Correctional Facility	2,127	-18	-164			
3. Department of State Hospitals	240	-9	-80			
4. CRPP Supervision	<u>644</u>	<u>+11</u>	<u>-510</u>			
Alternative Custody Program	24	+2	-132			
Custody to Community Treatment Reentry Program	271	+3	-69			
Male Community Reentry Program	310	+7	-323			
Medical Parole	31	0	+6			
Medically Vulnerable Release	8	-1				
B. Parole	<u>55,929</u>	<u>-228</u>	<u>+4,204</u>			
Community Supervision	54,335	-229	+4,419			
Interstate Cooperative Case	1,594	+1	-215			
C. Non-CDCR Jurisdiction	<u>2,853</u>	<u>-60</u>	<u>+1,765</u>			
Other State/Federal Institutions	287	-4	-32			
Out of State Parole	745	-14	+13			
Out of State Parolee at Large	18	+1	+5			
DJJ-W&IC 1731.5(c) Institutions	17	0	-7			
County Jail	1,786	-43				
D. Other Populations	<u>8,186</u>	<u>-44</u>	<u>+1,745</u>			
Temporary Release to Court and Hospital	1,738	-26	+169			
Escaped	198	-2	0			
Parolee at Large	6,250	-16	+1,576			
Total CDCR Population	<u>164,721</u>	<u>-193</u>	<u>-19,221</u>			

This report contains the latest available reliable population figures from SOMS. They have been carefully audited, but are preliminary, and therefore subject to revision.

Weekly Report of Population
 As of Midnight November 11, 2020

Weekly Institution Population Detail

Institutions	Felon/ Other	Design Capacity	Percent Occupied	Staffed Capacity
Male Institutions				
Avenal State Prison (ASP)	3,454	2,920	118.3	4,719
Calipatria State Prison (CAL)	3,000	2,308	130.0	3,451
California Correctional Center (CCC)	2,349	3,883	60.5	4,752
California Correctional Institution (CCI)	2,987	2,783	107.3	4,175
Centinel State Prison (CEN)	3,135	2,308	135.8	3,446
California Health Care Facility - Stockton (CHCF)	2,412	2,951	81.7	3,051
California Institution for Men (CIM)	2,136	2,976	71.8	4,450
California Men's Colony (CMC)	3,123	3,838	81.4	4,407
California Medical Facility (CMF)	2,040	2,361	86.4	2,981
California State Prison, Corcoran (COR)	2,942	3,116	94.4	4,476
California Rehabilitation Center (CRC)	2,225	2,491	89.3	3,514
Correctional Training Facility (CTF)	4,391	3,312	132.6	5,019
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP)	1,898	1,738	109.2	2,578
Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI)	1,413	1,681	84.1	2,413
Folsom State Prison (FOL)	2,153	2,066	104.2	3,078
High Desert State Prison (HDSP)	3,353	2,324	144.3	3,461
Ironwood State Prison (ISP)	2,859	2,200	130.0	3,300
Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP)	3,627	2,448	148.2	3,622
California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC)	2,780	2,300	120.9	3,424
Mule Creek State Prison (MCSP)	3,906	3,284	118.9	4,207
North Kern State Prison (NKSP)	2,536	2,694	94.1	4,011
Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP)	2,271	2,380	95.4	3,361
Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP)	2,820	2,308	122.2	3,535
RJ Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD)	3,617	2,992	120.9	4,038
California State Prison, Sacramento (SAC)	2,254	1,828	123.3	2,545
California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF)	4,413	3,424	128.9	5,157
Sierra Conservation Center (SCC)	3,073	3,836	80.1	4,570
California State Prison, Solano (SOL)	3,270	2,610	125.3	4,010
San Quentin State Prison (SQ)	2,801	3,082	90.9	4,226
Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP)	2,804	2,452	114.4	3,509
Valley State Prison (VSP)	2,776	1,980	140.2	3,034
Wasco State Prison (WSP)	2,302	2,984	77.1	4,447
Male Total	91,120	85,858	106.1	120,967
Female Institutions				
Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)	2,009	2,004	100.2	3,068
California Institution for Women (CIW)	1,126	1,398	80.5	1,877
Folsom State Prison (FOL)	85	403	21.1	530
Female Total	3,220	3,805	84.6	5,475
Institution Total	94,340	89,663	105.2	126,442

Weekly Report of Population
As of Midnight November 11, 2020

Notes

- Felon/Other counts are felons, county contract boarders, federal boarders, state boarders, safekeepers, county diagnostic cases, Department of Mental Health boarders, and Division of Juvenile Justice boarders.
- Interstate Cooperative Cases are parolees from other states being supervised in California.
- Non-CDCR Jurisdiction are California cases being confined in or paroled to other states or jurisdictions.
- Welfare and Institution Code (W&IC) 1731.5(c) covers persons under the age of 21 who were committed to CDCR, had their sentence amended, and were incarcerated at the Division of Juvenile Justice for housing and program participation.
- Other Population includes inmates temporarily out-to-court, inmates in hospitals, escapees, and parolees at large.