



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024

City of San Diego, County Health Department Investigating Reports of Illness at Safe Sleeping Site

OFFICIALS ARE WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE AND ENSURE RESIDENTS' SAFETY

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is taking immediate action to protect residents at the O Lot Safe Sleeping site following reports of an abdominal illness impacting some residents and staff. On Friday, Jan. 19, the City received reports of approximately 30 residents who were ill with gastrointestinal symptoms. Four staff members of the nonprofit provider Dreams For Change also reported symptoms.

Earlier today, officials from the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and Quality and Public Health Services were on site at O Lot to investigate the cause of the illness. The City is following guidance from the County to limit the spread of the illness and taking steps to protect health and safety. These actions include:

- Ongoing sanitation of shared spaces and common areas, including transportation shuttles.
- Isolation of residents experiencing symptoms.
- Increased janitorial services.
- Added bathroom and handwashing facilities.
- Bottled water is being provided to residents on site.

There are approximately 370 residents staying in 320 tents at O Lot, which has capacity for 408 tents. As a precaution, intakes are being paused at O Lot while the investigation is ongoing. There are no reports of illness at the City's second Safe Sleeping site at 20th & B.

The City will take all necessary steps to protect the health and wellbeing of residents at O Lot, following guidance from County public health officials who are leading the investigation. Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

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