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Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Mitigation Activities

The Department of Juvenile Justice is working closely with the Governor's Office, the Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Public Health to focus on prevention and planning in response to COVID-19. We will continue updating and aligning our emergency response protocols to protect the health and safety of our youth and staff.

The following COVID-19 mitigation activities and updates became effective on March 17, 2020. These and all subsequent activities and updates are valid through April 30, 2020:

1. All persons entering IDJJ facilities shall be screened prior to entry using the Procedure for Screening for COVID-19.
2. All persons entering DJJ facilities shall be directed to wash or sanitize their hands prior to entry and upon exit.
3. All soap dispensers and hand sanitizer dispensers shall be kept full.
4. Hand sanitizer and tissues shall be available in all common areas.
5. Common touch areas such as door handles, drinking fountains and tabletops shall be wiped down with cleaning solution and/or disinfectant during each shift.
6. Youth shall be educated by facility staff on safety measures and continually provided with updated facts about COVID-19.
7. All community writs shall be discontinued.
8. All Aftercare facility visits to youth shall be suspended, and monthly staffing and release review participation shall be by phone, WebEx, or conference call.
9. All revocation hearings shall be conducted via phone, WebEx, or conference call.
10. Effective immediately, the following restrictions on travel and training are in effect for all staff:
 - a. Out of state travel is prohibited except for mission critical operations.
 - b. In state travel to alternate sites is restricted and must be approved by the Deputy of Operations or designee.
 - c. All staff trainings are suspended.
 - d. All meetings with external agencies or partners shall be held remotely using telephone or videoconference. Face-to-face meetings with external partners shall be suspended.
11. All Rutan Interviews have been suspended.

12. Monitoring visits including John Howard Association, ACLU and federal monitors are postponed until a later date.
13. Monitor youth and staff closely for symptoms or signs of respiratory illness, most importantly fever, cough or shortness of breath.
 - a. Immediately notify Medical Director and report the incident to the Executive Staff member on duty.
14. All employees shall always engage in the following safety precautions while at work:
 - a. Maintain social distance when possible; avoid close contact with people who are ill.
 - b. Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, especially after touching any common touch points like door handles; if handwashing is not available use hand sanitizer.
 - c. When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve. Do not use your hand.
 - d. Wash your hands after using a tissue to wipe any area of your face, after using the bathroom, and before and after eating.
 - e. Avoid touching your face, eyes or mouth.
 - f. Use personal protective equipment (masks, gloves and eye shields) if providing direct care to individuals with viral illnesses.

Effective March 18:

15. Staff with remote capabilities are moved into remote work status.

Effective March 19:

16. Implement screening protocol for deliveries.
17. Mental health and substance abuse will implement modified protocols for treatment and groups to maintain social distance.
18. Operations staff are closely monitoring critical inventory and have proactively placed orders through the Emergency Management Agency for additional supplies and equipment to ensure we have enough stores for prolonged use.

Effective March 20:

19. Visitation and volunteer visits are suspended.
 - a. We will provide letters and calls to communicate this announcement to families and volunteers.
 - b. We will provide additional calls and video visits (if possible) for youth and families.
 - c. Phones should be wiped down in between each call.
20. We will begin health screening for youth who are being released. Screening will be done by health care staff.
21. We are continuing to identify additional groups of staff who will move to remote work status.
22. Program staff are developing schedules to ensure we can continue to function, provide communication, and essential services while minimizing human daily traffic flow into facilities.

23. We are following guidance from the Department of Public Health, the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators, the American Corrections Association, and national guidance for jails and lock-ups regarding population management during this time.
24. The Department has put out a call for supplies such as magazines, books, art paper and drawing supplies and snacks for youth who must remain at DJJ during this time.

Effective March 21:

25. Essential program staff will move to a 14-day on site/14-day remote rotation to limit human traffic into facilities and to conserve employee health and resources for extended containment.

Effective March 23:

26. Remote educational instruction begins.
27. Volunteer educational staff will remain on site while remaining educational staff will provide remote education through Pearson/Conexus.
28. 14 day remote and onsite rotations are in effect for MHPs, YFSs, YOS staff, LTAs, along with supervisors.

Effective April 2:

29. Upon learning of potential exposure to DJJ employees, DJJ will work with IDPH to assess risk to other staff and next steps.
 - a. In cases where a DJJ employee reports a positive test but the risk of exposure within a facility is minimal, DJJ will notify the facility generally that an employee has tested positive and the exposure risk is minimal.
 - b. In cases of higher risk exposure, DJJ will notify any potentially exposed staff personally and ask them to self-quarantine and monitor themselves for symptoms.

Effective April 3:

30. DJJ will implement daily temperature checks on youth in custody.
31. All employees who are screening staff for entry into the facility will be issued N95 masks for their screening shift.
32. Postponed visitation is extended through April 30, 2020. Letters to families and FAQs are being distributed to families.
33. Youth will continue to receive as many calls and video visits where feasible.

Effective April 6:

34. IDJJ moves to universal masking procedures. All staff at DJJ are required to wear a mask during their shift.
35. Additional thermometers, cleaning supplies, and gloves have been obtained and distributed based on need across the facilities. Additional supplies are in the queue.