



**JB Pritzker**  
Governor

**Heidi Mueller**  
Director

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Dear Families,

With recent developments regarding COVID-19 (the 2019 novel Coronavirus), the Department of Juvenile Justice is taking steps to protect the health and safety of your children in our care and the employees of the Department. While there is no need for panic, we do want to take any steps we can to be proactive and prepared and will continue to update our emergency response protocols.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we are now screening all visitors to the Department using the attached screening questionnaire. Please know that we cannot allow entrance to any visitor who has symptoms of a cold or fever, who has had a fever, vomiting or diarrhea within the past week, or who has been around people who are sick with colds or flu. If you are currently experiencing these symptoms or have experienced them in the past week, we cannot permit your entry and ask that you postpone your visit for at least 14 days after the start of your symptoms.

In addition, we cannot admit anyone who has traveled to a country where COVID-19 is spreading or who has been in contact with someone who has traveled in one of these countries within the past 14 days.

For families who must postpone their visits, the Department will work with you to make sure you are able to reschedule your visit as soon as possible and will work to provide additional opportunities for communication such as phone calls to every extent possible.

Hand sanitizer and tissues are provided at entrances to our facilities and common areas. We ask that you please use hand sanitizer when you arrive and again on your way out, and any time you use a tissue.

#### Proactive Steps to Stay Healthy

The 2019 novel Coronavirus is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way influenza, and other respiratory viruses spread. Because of this, individuals are encouraged to follow these common-sense practices:

- Wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Avoid the touching of eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover mouth and nose with the inside of the arm or with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throw the tissue away immediately. Wash hands as soon as possible afterward.

Additional information is available from the Illinois Department of Public Health at their Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-2019) website, the COVID-19 Hotline at 1 (800) 889-3931 or by email at [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov).

We will continue to monitor this situation closely in partnership with IDPH and IEMA in the days and weeks to come. Be assured that we will communicate immediately any updates or changes in the virus spread or our internal protocols. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Youth and Family Specialist or the Superintendent of the facility where your child is staying.

Thank you for your attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Mueller', written in a cursive style.

Heidi Mueller  
Director