



JB Pritzker
Governor

Heidi Mueller
Director

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Dear Providers,

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 the youth in our care, the employees of the Department, and our valued community partners. 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 and limiting 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 activities with us for at least 14 days after the start of your symptoms. Even if you are not sick or have not been exposed, we ask you to be very cautious over the next several weeks and when in doubt, avoid exposure.

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.

If you must cancel or reschedule programs, the Department will work with you to make sure you are able to reschedule and will work to provide additional opportunities for communication or remote programming such as phone calls or webex to every extent possible.

Hand sanitizer and tissues are provided at entrances to our facilities and common areas. We ask that you please wash your hands or 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.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Illinois Emergency Management Agency 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 Deputy Robert Vickery at (312) 415-6511 or Robert.d.vickery@illinois.gov; or Deputy Eva Moore at (312) 590-8812 or eva.moore@illinois.gov.

Thank you for your attention,



Heidi Mueller
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