

**DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES**


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GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 16, 2020

To: Alabama Administrative Office of Courts; County Juvenile Courts, Detention Centers, Mt. Meigs, Vacca and Autauga Facilities; and DYS Contracted Provider Facilities.

From: Steven Lafreniere, Director   
Alabama Department of Youth Services

Re: DYS COVID-19 Plan for Prevention and Control

Following guidance issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Prevention and Control as well as the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, the Department of Youth Services will implement the following temporary measures:

- Effective Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, admissions to DYS are suspended and all youth should hold in place until April 6<sup>th</sup>. There may be a few DYS youth who are scheduled to return home within the next 30 days and DYS will work with each Court and Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) to determine the appropriateness of each youth being released prior to April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Effective immediately, all non-essential persons will not be allowed on our facilities. This includes volunteers and visitation. Youth will have increased phone time to talk with their families. If officers of the court need access to meet with their youth we request that it be coordinated through the DYS Legal office.
- Routine monitoring visits of programs by Community Services staff will be suspended until April 6<sup>th</sup> unless a for-cause issue arises that necessitates DYS staff to be present. DYS staff are encouraged to maintain contact with programs through phone calls and/or Zoom meetings, if necessary.
- All training events except for on-line training will be suspended until April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- DYS will send out, as a reminder, to all DYS and Contracted facilities, a copy of the DYS Policy (12.10) on Communicable and Infectious Disease management. We will also share with Nursing staff at these facilities the Infection Control Guidelines from the CDC and request that each Head Nurse provide a training on this document and document that their nurses have received this information/training.

- DYS will conduct a daily surveillance of vital signs/symptoms on all youth who have entered DYS in the last 14 days and would recommend that Contracted facilities conduct a similar procedure.
- DYS will postpone the DYS Board Meeting until April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We recognize that this situation is very fluid and additional information is coming out almost daily. Like all providers of 24/7 operations we anticipate to be challenged with staffing availability at times. We plan to resume standard operations April 6<sup>th</sup> but will continue to monitor this public health crisis and make any necessary modifications before or after April 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.

CC: DYS Board of Directors

Dr. Chandler Muller, DYS Medical Director

Jonathan Hester, Governor's office