

State of Alabama

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR



STEVEN P. LAFRENIERE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Post Office Box 66  
Mt. Meigs, Alabama 36057

Monday, March 16, 2020

To all DYS Parents with youth at the Mt. Meigs, Vacca, or Autauga campuses:

In order to protect the youth in our custody and ensure their safety, the Alabama Department of Youth Services will be implementing temporary measures to minimize the impact of COVID-19. These measures follow the directive from Governor Kay Ivey and the 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. We understand that this is a trying time for you and your child. Please know that we are enacting these measures to keep your child safe. We hope that we will be able to resume our normal routine as soon as possible. See below and refer to [www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for additional guidance.

- Effective immediately, all non-essential persons will not be allowed on our facilities. This includes volunteers and visitation. Because of this additional hardship, 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.
- 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.
- Auburn University staff who provide psychological services to students in the ABSOP Program will begin remote operations starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Monday, April 13, 2020 to ensure that students continue to move forward in treatment. For urgent matters, parents with questions should contact Ms. Sunya Terry at (334) 604-4246 or (334) 215-6126.

Please continue to check the local news stations, CDC, WHO, and the DYS website for updates.