



DYS COVID-19 Weekly Update

April 20th, 2020

This update is an effort to keep parents, staff and stakeholders informed of the continued response measures taken by the Alabama Department of Youth Services to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to our students and staff within our facilities. Since our last update dated 4/10/20, the following additional measures have been implemented:

- DYS is planning to resume modified intakes this week under the following criteria:
 - Tuesdays will be the only day for Intakes until further notice.
 - DYS will call in youth waiting in detention centers using a systematic approach that considers their length of stay in detention balanced with the capacity readiness of each program.
 - Each youth will have been screened each day by detention staff (minimum of 72 hours) prior to transport and will be screened an additional 72 hours after arriving at the DYS program.
 - Each week, DYS will assess the readiness of our facilities and contract placements to ensure intakes can continue safely and consistent with the latest recommendations from Public Health, CDC, and Governor's Office.
- DYS continues to seek the release of youth who have completed their programs, are close to completion and services can be delivered in the community, or are otherwise eligible for release.
- Although visitation is still suspended, DYS youth and families will be allowed to have one video-visit per week along with their increased phone calls.
- We continue to engage in screening procedures of all persons entering the facility.
- As of today, no youth in DYS custody have tested positive for COVID-19. Some staff at DYS and contract providers have been asked to self-quarantine as a precaution but we are not aware of any positive cases.
- DYS students receive their weekly individual education packets from their teachers who provide students feedback and grades for their work.
- DYS has prepared a detailed Medical Response Plan in the event a youth or staff is suspected to have Covid-19.
- Most activities are continuing but may have been modified to some degree for various reasons related to coronavirus precautions. Remote access to treatment staff and interaction with counselors and case managers continue.
- DYS Executive Staff meet daily to ensure continuity of operations, troubleshoot issues quickly, and plan for contingencies and scenarios in the coming weeks.