



DYS COVID-19 Weekly Update
April 10th, 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 at our facilities. Since our last update dated 4/1/20, the following additional measures have been implemented:

- As of this date, DYS is planning to resume intakes beginning April 21st. DYS will be coordinating with courts and detention centers as this day approaches. We will continue to assess the readiness of our facilities and contract placements to ensure this can be done safely and consistent with the latest recommendations from Public Health, CDC, and Governor's Office.
- On a limited bases, and with the court's approval, DYS continues to seek the release of youth who have completed their programs or are otherwise eligible for release.
- Although visitation has been suspended, student phone contacts with family have been increased. DYS is working to having the capacity to allow youth limited Facetime visits with family. We hope to have this in place next week.
- We continue to screen all persons entering the facility. On April 9th, mandatory wearing of a mask or face covering for all employees entering the facility was implemented consistent with the recommendations from the CDC. This is to further protect youth and other staff from possible infection.
- As of today, no youth in DYS custody have tested positive COVID-19.
- DYS School District has submitted an Alternative Plan of Education valid through June 5th that has been approved by ALSDE. Individual education packets will be developed and given to students. Teachers will have opportunity to speak with students remotely to assist with assignments.
- We have developed capacity for telemedicine services at each campus to eliminate the need for students and staff to go off campus for routine medical care.
- Most activities are continuing but have been modified to some degree. Remote access to treatment and interaction with counselors and case managers continue, though modified.
- DYS Executive Staff meet daily to ensure continuity of operations, troubleshoot issues quickly, and plan for contingencies and scenarios in the coming weeks.