

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

DYS COVID-19 Weekly Update – April 1, 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. Since our last update provided on 3/20/20 the following additional measures have been implemented:

- DYS extended suspension of admissions from April 6th to April 17th (Based on the latest information and guidance provided by Governor's Office and ALDPH). This date also corresponds with the return of regular work hours of state employees and resumption of juvenile court operations.
- On a limited bases and with the court's approval, DYS continues to seek the release of youth who have completed their programs and can go home.
- Although visitation has been suspended, student phone contacts with family have been increased.
- All persons entering DYS facilities are being screened and having their temperature checked daily.
- As of today, no youth have complained of symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- DYS School District will resume modified alternative educational services for youth until further notice.
- 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.
- Auburn University has continued to deliver treatment remotely through tele-therapy for ABSOP students. We will provide similar services for substance abuse treatment next week.
- We continue to monitor and plan for the youth awaiting placement at DYS.
- DYS Executive Staff have daily briefing meetings at 11am to ensure continuity with operations, troubleshoot issues quickly, and plan for contingencies and scenarios in the coming weeks.