

State of Alabama

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR



STEVEN P. LAFRENIERE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Post Office Box 66  
Mt. Meigs, Alabama 36057

April 13, 2020

Dear Family Member,

Since my initial letter to parents posted on March 16<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to remind you and your family that the health and safety of your child is our top priority at the Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS). This past month has presented many challenges for our department, the students in our care, and their families. I am happy to report at this time, that we have no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 at DYS facilities.

We are aware of the anxiety that many of you may have surrounding the necessary steps taken by your communities, the state, and our department. I recognize the additional hardship that may come from not being able to visit your child during this time.

Here is what we are doing to address your child's safety and help families keep connected:

- Increase the number of phone calls each youth receives and will arrange for one call to be a FaceTime call;
- Continue regular cleaning and sanitizing of the facility to maintain healthy environments;
- Provide educational updates and awareness on the coronavirus to youth. We continue to provide educational services to students through modified instruction and assignments.
- Only allow essential personnel on the facility, who are screened daily;
- Ensure all staff wear a mask and practice social distancing from youth to the degree practical.

I want you to know that we have a response plan in place should your child or any child becomes sick, DYS will provide immediate care. DYS will medically isolate them, treat their symptoms, and have them tested according to the guidance given by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the CDC. If this happens, we will contact you right away.

Your child's health is key to their success at DYS and I and my staff are prepared to treat each youth the way we would want our own child to be treated. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we all work through this national public health crisis. I invite you to stay up to date by visiting the DYS Website [www.DYS.alabama.gov/dys-coronavirus-updates](http://www.DYS.alabama.gov/dys-coronavirus-updates) each week or you can call your child's case manager or program coordinator for specific information about your child.

Stay Safe and Healthy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Lafreniere", is written over the typed name.

Steven P. Lafreniere, Director  
Alabama Department of Youth Services