



NEWS

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

CONTACT: Greg Davy, Public Information Officer

(804) 971-3973 | gregory.davy@djj.virginia.gov

DJJ ADDRESSES LEGAL AID JUSTICE CENTER CONCERNS

24 Youth at Bon Air Have Recovered From COVID-19, Three Active Cases Remain

Richmond, VA, April 27 – The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) responded to a letter from the Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) dated April 20. The vast majority of the organization’s recommended actions had already been in place prior to the receipt of the letter.

DJJ Director Valerie Boykin said, “The health and safety of all youth committed to the Department is our priority. DJJ took early and aggressive action to prepare for, and prevent the spread of, COVID-19 at its only residential juvenile correctional facility, Bon Air.” Through extensive planning and deliberate steps, including vigilant testing, there are only three active cases at Bon Air. These three residents are exhibiting either mild or no symptoms.

To determine the prevalence of COVID-19 on the Bon Air campus, early efforts were implemented in consultation with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Activities involved social distancing, checking residents’ temperatures two times per day, and testing all youth with an elevated temperature of 99 F or higher for COVID-19.

As a result of these efforts, DJJ has slowed the spread with only one new case in the past week. Currently, 24 youth have recovered and are no longer in medical isolation, leaving three active COVID-19 cases at Bon Air. No resident has required hospitalization. The majority of the positive cases never exhibited any outward symptoms. Residents receive 24-hour medical care from a fulltime DJJ physician and a team of licensed nurses.

Director Boykin added, “As we learn more about the evolving guidance on the novel coronavirus and the spread of COVID-19, other facilities are following our lead and beginning to test those in their care with this lower temperature threshold.”

To read DJJ’s full response to LAJC, click [here](#).

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