



Valerie P. Boykin
Director

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Parents / Family Members
Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center Residents

Dear Parents and Family Members,

DJJ has been preparing for and closely monitoring the COVID 19 situation for the past few weeks. The situation has been quite fluid with things changing rapidly across the state. As you are aware, we made the difficult decision to suspend visitation last week in an effort to practice social distancing. While I am sure that is hard for you and your loved one, this was deemed best by health organizations as the spread of the virus seems to be increasing rapidly.

I trust that you have all been following the updates provided on the virus. We are monitoring updates from the Centers For Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Governor Ralph Northam has been proactive and taken a number of steps to combat the spread. One of his most recent actions was the closing of all schools for two weeks which includes the Yvonne B Miller School at Bon Air beginning today, March 16 along with limiting gatherings of 100 or more individuals in one space. Our education staff have been in contact with the State Department of Education and they are working to develop learning opportunities that provide continuity of education. These materials will serve to enhance skill gaps and provide enrichment experiences. Youth will be maintained on their units and should be provided with their individual learning packets by mid-week.

On another somewhat concerning note, it has come to my attention that an employee based on the Bon Air Campus has exhibited symptoms that have warranted testing for the virus. We do not have a confirmed diagnosis. Please note that there was limited contact with any youth and no youth have exhibited any symptoms. In an abundance of caution; however, we are taking additional steps to protect the health of all residents and employees. We are raising our safety protocols to include but are not limited to:

1. Mandatory hand washing for all upon entry to the campus.
2. CDC recommended screenings for all Bon Air staff and residents.
3. Expanded campus wide cleaning.

I am asking the Bon Air staff to allow youth opportunities to check in with family as often as possible via telephone to make you aware that they are well. It is our aim to keep you informed and provide updates as often as possible.

Please feel free to reach out to your loved one's assigned counselor if you have any questions about his care. As I am sure you are aware, we are unable to provide any specifics about the staff person mentioned above; however, we will provide updates as they become available and are able to be shared publicly.

Thank you for working with us during this challenging time. Together we can make it through with as little disruption as possible.

Lastly, I wish you well as we all practice caution during this pandemic. Please be safe!

My Best Wishes,



Valerie P. Boykin
Director

C: Angela Valentine, Chief Deputy
Joyce Holmon, Deputy Director of Residential Services
Linda McWilliams, Deputy Director of Community Programs
Melinda Boone, Interim Superintendent / Educational Consultant
Shaun Parker, Residential Program Manager
Regional Program Managers
Russell Jennings, Bon Air Superintendent
Court Service Unit Directors

