



Valerie P. Boykin
Director

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Juvenile Justice

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April 5, 2020

Parents / Family Members
Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center Residents

Dear Parents and Family Members,

We received word today that a youth at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center has tested positive for COVID 19. The youth, who first exhibited symptoms on Friday, was moved to the Central Infirmary and tested the same day. The test results were received today and his condition has already improved rapidly to the point that he is currently asymptomatic (showing no symptoms).

DJJ Managers, including medical staff, consulted with the Virginia Department of Health today and the following steps are being implemented in addition to the ones outlined in my previous letter:

- Out of an abundance of caution, all units have been placed on medical isolation as we make efforts to try to trace the source. It does not appear that this resident had any contact with the staff previously reported to be positive.
- The unit where the aforementioned youth was originally assigned has been relocated to another unit and the unit will be sanitized.
- Parents of youth in that unit will be notified individually. All staff assigned to the unit of the youth who tested positive are being issued additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to begin wearing immediately.
- Effective last Friday, all staff will be assigned cloth masks. The wearing of these masks is **mandatory** whenever staff are in the presence of a youth. The CDC guidelines now recommend the wearing of cloth mask to provide protection for coughing and sneezing.
- Beginning on Monday, all residents will be assigned a mask to wear during waking hours, while outside of their room
- All contact sports have been suspended.
- Youth will be reminded of the requirement to social distance to extent possible when outside of their room, wear their masks, regularly wash their hands and not to touch their faces.


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DJJ is trying to be transparent and forth coming; however, we know that this is concerning news and probably a bit scary for you. I assure you that we are doing the best that we can and following the most currently available medical guidance through this situation. I am sure that you know that guidance has changed a lot and we at DJJ are trying to stay on top of it. Please know that the health and safety of each resident and employee remains a major concern for us. Employees have been asked to follow all instructions provided by management who are relying on medical guidance to help reduce the risk of further expose at Bon Air JCC.

Many have asked about releases for youth; however, most of the youth placed at Bon Air are there on specific court orders and we do not have the authority to release. We have been reviewing all cases of youth where the court did not set a specific time for release. We are looking at early release, when possible, considering the assigned length of stay, treatment completion and the parole plan.

Thank you again for working with us during this challenging time. Please reach out to your child's assigned counselor if you have specific questions.

Sincerely,



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