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Parent Communication

Date: April 20, 2020
From: Valerie Boykin
DJJ Director
To: Parents / Family Members
Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center Residents
Subject: COVID 19 Update

Greetings,

I am writing to provide my sixth update to you since March 31 regarding the COVID 19 pandemic and its impact on Bon Air and the residents.

As you are aware, I shared with you that we had our first youth to test positive for COVID 19 on April 5. At that time, after consultation with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), we instituted a medical quarantine to try to control any spread across the units. This decision was not made lightly and was made with the greatest concern for your youth's care and safety. We indicated that the quarantine would last for up to two weeks. I have to say that while this quarantine confines youth to their rooms for extended periods of time, they have handled it well. They have continued to receive their educational packets. They have received modified counseling and behavioral health check-ups. They also have had individual recreational time daily along with access to phone calls.

During this time, we embarked on an aggressive COVID 19 testing protocol to identify any additional youth who may have contracted the virus. We started testing all youth with any symptoms. Additionally, we started and continue an aggressive screening process where we take the temperatures of youth twice a day. While the CDC defines fever as a temperature of over 100.3 F, we decided, based on guidance from the Virginia Department of Health to test youth with only slightly elevated temperatures of 99 F or higher. We are testing more youth and are testing them earlier than they would be tested in the community. During this two week period, we have tested 77 youth and, to date 26 youth have tested positive for the virus. The majority of the results came back negative; there are only five test results outstanding. While the number of positive tests is concerning, only four of those youth had any symptoms, described as cold or flu-like, beyond the elevated temperature which was gone within a day or so. Already 17 of those youth have no remaining symptoms or elevated temperatures. They

have been in medical isolation for the recommended amount of time, and have been cleared by medical to return to their units. There has been no need for any emergency room trips or hospitalizations. In case you are wondering, we are unable to test all youth. The Health Department does not recommend it. We check temperatures twice per day and once the doctor rules out other problems, we are then able to request the test.

This week, with direction from VDH, we hope to begin relaxing the medical quarantine across the campus. We are awaiting our outside cleaning contractor to complete the sanitization of the common areas.

As always, the health and safety of each resident and employee remains my major concern. Feel free to reach out to your child's assigned counselor if you have specific questions.

C: DJJ Executive Team
Shaun Parker, Residential Program Manager
Regional Program Managers
Russell Jennings, Bon Air Superintendent
Court Service Unit Directors