

## RESOURCE INFORMATION

### Council for Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA)

Compiled March 14, 2020

CJJA has compiled the below responses by detention and correctional facilities across the country to COVID -19. Responses have been varied and continue to be evolving as the situation progresses. Many facilities have recently updated emergency plans, increased coordination with first responders and medical services, developed alternatives to in-person visits and some facilities have begun to screen youth at intake for symptoms of the virus. Below are some of the responses that facilities have shared as well as several documents attached to this email developed by facilities that address preparation, prevention and planning. Here's what has been reported:

- Several jurisdictions have restricted state employees from all out-of-state travel.
- Facilities in LA County are working with county and state partners with the intention of planning for full-scale quarantine of juvenile halls and camps, if need be...or even less-than full scale but widespread event). Facilities are putting up signage and are looking at Personal Protective gear issues, how, when and where to quarantine, (and if that happens, how to ensure food services, medical and mental health, and school services continue), staffing issues if staff start getting ill or can't access facilities, visitation and volunteer access to facilities, etc.
- Some facilities have refreshed their pandemic plan and assigned the appropriate liaisons but haven't yet restricted visits or canceled events.
- Facilities have increased communication around the general precautions, implemented more cleaning of surfaces in facilities, and are considering strategies for employees who are over 60 and whether telecommuting is possible for them.
- Facilities are mailing letters to all parents/guardians and posted for all professional visitors asking that they not visit if they believe they have been exposed to someone with a contagious illness and to please stay home if they have a fever, cough or other serious symptoms.
- Facilities are coordinating with the local jail's Superintendent to discuss what resources we may be able to share, and with court services to discuss how to mitigate the risk.
- One facility reported taking the temperature of every resident at intake and alerting health care providers to any concerns.
- There have been reports of many facilities halting visitation and utilizing technology for family engagement and visitation.
- In Oregon, the Governor closed public gatherings over 250, ordered schools state-wide to close until April 1, and OYA sister agency for adult corrections announced full lockdowns of the state's prisons – no visitors, attorneys or even PO's. The Oregon Youth Authority is preparing to announce a closure of visiting and all but essential volunteers and contractors at the state's 9 facilities and camps across the state. Given yesterday's developments and the level of youth, staff and family anxiety over this, OYA felt it necessary. OYA has put a plan together to increase the number of skype and phone visits for youth – which is at no cost to youth or families.
- Washington State is going through similar activities. They are working closely with Department of Health, State HR etc... The Governor has declared a state of emergency and has closed school districts in three counties and cancelled the public gatherings as well. We participated in a statewide convening at the Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray at the end of February/first week of March. We specifically worked with other leaders from agencies with 24/7 facilities and community supervision such Department of Corrections, Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities etc. WA has set up an Incident Command Center, and stopped mission essential travel, following Dept. of Health protocol and cancelling any meetings over 10

people while obviously looking at other options such as web-ex and video conferencing. To get information out to those who have loved ones in WA facilities, we developed parent letters; had meetings with the youth, called all the parents to let them what we are doing to mitigate risks. We have not cancelled visitation as of yet but are limiting. We are increasing phone calls because we know it's a stressful time for families, youth and our staff. We have changed our point of entry protocol for our facilities, increased signage, hand washing etc... We went back over and reviewed the mission essential functions in management, communications, safety and security, support and maintenance of critical business and service functions of the 24/7 facilities and client medical, mental health and logistical support. We also reviewed essential staff, essential records, alternative sites, vital equipment etc...Our communication plans include CDC and Department of Health updates, prevention tips, HR updates. We also have our intra and internet COVID-19 updates as well as a COVID-19 inbox and then we are tracking and posting FAQ's.

- Prior to VA Governor Northam's State of Emergency declaration, Implemented the attached plan. In response to the constantly changing information, we are having to update our responses. Unfortunately, as a result of yesterday's declaration, we have had to cancel visitation at our correctional center, but are encouraging and implementing steps to improve and make more readily available phone & video contacts. Our residential staff are reaching out directly to parents to try to calm their fears as much as possible and letting them and residents know that the restrictions are being implemented with their safety in mind.
- For those of you not under the same restrictions as us in VA, you may find the attached plan helpful. A few highlights: The response is graduated through stages, based on clear & objective criteria. The VA document identifies specific, concrete things that agencies should be doing right now (specific precautions to take, plans to make, supplies to start acquiring). The goal to control the spread of the virus, without prematurely suspending the interpersonal activities that kids in custody need most: visitation with loved ones, and full participation in school. This is a great example of how to balance the four main areas of your strategic framework - safety, connection, purpose, and fairness - even in the midst of a public health challenge.
- The Indiana Juvenile Detention Association has been having an email discussion about this and sharing procedures. Attached is a document that the Bartholomew County Juvenile Services Center developed.
- Santa Cruz is screening all youth and visitors before they come into the facility. We are asking the screening questions of all visitors who come to our offices, and before visiting homes. Our department is equipped with sanitizers and safety materials in our facility (masks/protective gear) and we have County nurses on staff. Lastly, we are not holding or attending meetings/convenings/trainings that include 10 or more attendee's. Regarding Court- we are waiving appearances whenever possible and rescheduling cases. Limiting the number of people in court rooms as of now. We are adapting and shifting with ongoing State and County guidance as these directives evolve. Our primary message and practice is to practice responsible social distancing and to ensure the safety of our staff, our families and those we serve.
- Courts are operating as usual at Harris County, TX. We are preparing for videoconferencing hearings if needed. We are on high alert and are having protocol discussions on a daily basis. Currently, we are identifying essential staff and plans of succession. At this point and time, the City Health Department is only testing youth with significant symptoms (i.e. very high fever.) We are discussing plans for isolating cases we find. Additionally, some county departments have started screening staff that frequently visit our buildings (janitorial, cleaning staff, etc). We are discussing potentially screening our direct care staff daily, and possibly screening visitors. We have purchased thermometers, have ensured that we are stocked up on cleaning supplies as

well has medications needed to manage symptoms. We have sanitizers at high traffic touch points as well, and additional staff have been hired by our Facility maintenance department to frequently clean these areas. We have postponed programs that involve the participation of a large crowd to limit exposure.

- Conducting hearings via videoconference seem like it could help, but courts vary widely in their technical capacity and experience using these technologies - and the results have not been uniformly positive. A recent report by the [Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative](#) provides a good overview of the issues courts have had to address and some examples of how they have responded. [Court Appearances in Criminal Proceedings Through Telepresence: Identifying Research and Practice Needs to Preserve Fairness While Leveraging New Technology](#)
- Some jurisdictions have restricted staffing to essential staff only and are having others work remotely from their homes.

**As always, CJA stands ready to provide any additional assistance as needed and will continue to share updates and resources as they become available. Please take care to manage your own health and wellbeing as we continue to work through this health crisis and ensure the safety of our families, staff, and youth entrusted to our care.**

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