



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

To our juvenile justice stakeholders:

During this unprecedented public health emergency, we at the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) share your concern for the health and safety of the youth and staff at all our detention centers and residential programs.

DJJ has implemented protocols in every one of its detention centers and residential commitment facilities that include daily screening of staff and essential visitors, daily objective monitoring of youths' health status, social distancing and group size limits, increased frequency of environmental cleaning and disinfecting, and specific steps to take in the event of evidence of exposure to the virus – steps which may or may not require quarantine and testing depending on the facts and circumstances presented, with direction from an appropriate medical professional. Quarantine and isolation areas have been designated in each detention center and residential facility. Our protocols were developed by DJJ's Office of Health Services and comply with CDC and FDOH guidelines, and we routinely consult those guidelines for any updates that would require changes to our protocols.

Managing our detention population is particularly important. To that end, we have implemented screening protocols in our juvenile assessment centers (JAC) and detention screening units (DSU) similar to those described above and are working with our law enforcement partners to perform Detention Risk Assessment (DRAI) scoring by phone so that youth who score for home detention or release need not be brought to the JAC or DSU. At least one circuit court has issued an order suspending enforcement of Failure to Appear detention orders for youth who otherwise do not score for secure detention – a welcomed decision and one that ideally all circuits would implement during this time. We also are working closely with State Attorney's Offices to determine on a case-by-case basis whether youth who score 13 or 14 on the DRAI (minimum for secure detention) can be safely placed on intensive home detention with electronic monitoring instead.

Should there be a need to quarantine, test, and/or isolate any youth in a detention center or residential facility based on direction from a medical professional, parents and guardians, as well as our juvenile justice stakeholders will be notified as appropriate.

Given the nature of this public health emergency, none of us can expect not to be affected. Yet, that is my goal when it comes to the youth in DJJ's care and custody.

Thank you for your partnership, and please stay safe.

Sincerely,
Simone Marsteller

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Ron DeSantis, Governor

Simone Marsteller, Secretary

The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.