

COVID-19 FACT SHEET AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Staying informed is an important part of responding to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and helping ensure the safety of DJJ youth, staff and the public. To help keep you informed, we created a Fact Sheet about the virus and our Agency's response to it. If you have any additional questions, please submit them to publicinformation@djj.sc.gov.

THE BASICS ABOUT COVID-19

WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is the disease caused by coronavirus, which causes respiratory illness. It was first discovered in China in December 2019. COVID-19 has now spread to countries around the world, and there have been cases in all 50 U.S. States.

HOW IS THE CORONAVIRUS SPREAD?

It is mostly spread from person to person through close contact (coughing, sneezing). The virus can also live on hard surfaces for up to a few days

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

- Fever (temperature over 100 degrees F)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath (tight feeling in chest)
- Loss of taste
- Loss of smell
- Sore throat

Most people have mild symptoms that go away in a few days. Some people may have more severe symptoms and need medical care.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Get Vaccinated
- Wear a mask
- Social distancing - Stay at least 6 feet away from others and avoid close contact unless necessary
- Wash your hands frequently
- Avoid touching your face

- Keep your living and work spaces clean
- Wipe down “high touch” surfaces often (doorknobs, handles, counters, railings).

LIMITING COVID-19 TRANSMISSION WITHIN DJJ

HOW IS DJJ PREVENTING COVID-19 FROM BEING INTRODUCED INTO ITS EVALUATION CENTERS, THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER AND THE BROAD RIVER ROAD COMPLEX?

Within our secured facilities, we have implemented preventive measures that meet or exceed all current recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), and include:

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Staff and youth are avoiding large gatherings when possible.
- Increasing outdoor activities allowing for social distancing.

SCREENINGS

- Symptom checks are performed on all juveniles upon arrival to one of our facilities. Youth are then monitored routinely for development of symptoms. If youth have an elevated screening develop symptoms, they will immediately be referred to that facility's medical infirmary for further evaluation.

HYGIENE

- Regularly sanitizing all “high touch” surfaces in work areas with a disinfectant solution that is approved to kill viruses. This can be a commercial cleaner (such as Lysol), or a 1:10 bleach solution.
- Conducting routine handwashing routine for staff and youth. Staff are teaching juveniles proper hand-washing techniques.
- Additional sanitization products (hand sanitizer dispensers, gloves, disinfectant sprays and wipes) are being made available to staff.

IS DJJ LOOKING AT MEDICAL RECORDS TO SEE WHICH YOUTH UNDER THEIR CARE AND CUSTODY HAVE MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT PUT THEM AT HIGHER RISK?

DJJ’s medical staff review each resident’s medical history and current medical conditions upon arrival at the facility. Yes, we are actively identifying youth who have health conditions that place them at higher risk for COVID-19.

WHAT IS DJJ’S PLAN IF A JUVENILE OR STAFF BECOMES INFECTED WITH COVID-19?

DJJ is following guidelines from the CDC, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and our medical professionals on staff.

HOW IS SCDJJ WORKING WITH OTHER LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO MINIMIZE THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW YOUTH, AND POSSIBLY THE CORONAVIRUS, INTO ITS FACILITIES?

Agency Executive Director L. Eden Hendrick has reached out directly to Family Court Judges, Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police, Solicitors and Public Defenders to ask for their help to ensure only those youth who are deemed a current, serious risk to public safety be detained and/or committed at DJJ's detention center, evaluation centers, long-term commitment facility and alternative placement sites.

SCDJJ has recommended a number of alternatives, including:

- Increased availability of electronic monitoring.
- Increased case management and monitoring by DJJ's Intensive Supervision Officers (ISOs).
- Active electronic monitoring by our sister-agency, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (DPPPS).

The Agency is also working with Courts to allow youth who are currently at a DJJ evaluation center awaiting disposition to return home to await their court hearing (depending upon the nature of their charges).

TRUSTED RESOURCES

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control \(SC DHEC\)](#)

[Resources to Help Cope with Coronavirus \(SCDMH\)](#)

[County Closures \(SCEMD website\)](#)