



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Los Angeles County Probation

COVID-19 Update #4

4/24/20

Juvenile Facilities

Reducing the Population in Juvenile Facilities

Over the period from April 17-April 23, the Los Angeles County juvenile hall population decreased from 374 to 364 and the juvenile residential camp population dropped from 210 to 193 over the same period. Since March 2, the juvenile hall population has decreased by 187 youth, or 34% and the juvenile camp population has decreased by 96 youth, or 33%.

The L.A. County Probation Department continues to work with the courts and legal partners on methods to safely reduce the juvenile population housed at Probation facilities.

- Unlike the adult system, Probation is unable to unilaterally release children from custody. Youth are committed to our care by a judicial process and court order and can only be released from custody by the juvenile court.
- The following Community Detention Program protocols continue to be in place:
 - The Community Detention Program will only detain violations when a youth cuts their electronic monitoring device, is missing for more than 12 hours or commits a new crime. Otherwise they will be kept on and a report will be sent with the next court date. Detentions are not conducted as a result of failure to drug test and gang association.
 - There was a 31% reduction in Juvenile Probation Violations from January to March.
- After discussions with the juvenile court, the Department screened 311 cases on March 24th in the camps to consider early release in accordance with the guidelines received. As a result, we recommended and submitted a total of 56 cases to court asking for release where appropriate. We continuously screen for early release due to youths meeting their treatment goals.
- As of April 23, 105 youth have been released from camp early as a result of COVID-19. The Department is also continuing to conduct pre-release home assessments and transitional multi-disciplinary team meetings. The aftercare unit is requesting to calendar another 34 cases for early release.
- Probation will continue to meet with Juvenile Court leadership, the Public Defender and the Alternative Public Defender to evaluate court orders.



Staff Health and Screening Measures

The Department is screening every person entering a juvenile detention facility. Those attempting to enter a juvenile hall or camp at any time are required to verbally respond if they currently have new or worsening symptoms of a respiratory illness. If the individual's response is that they are experiencing symptoms, they will be restricted from entering the facility that day. The department has also begun infrared temperature checks on all individuals entering juvenile facilities.

Staff in juvenile facilities have been wearing face coverings for the last couple of weeks to protect themselves and the youth there. All staff who are not teleworking have or will soon receive face coverings.

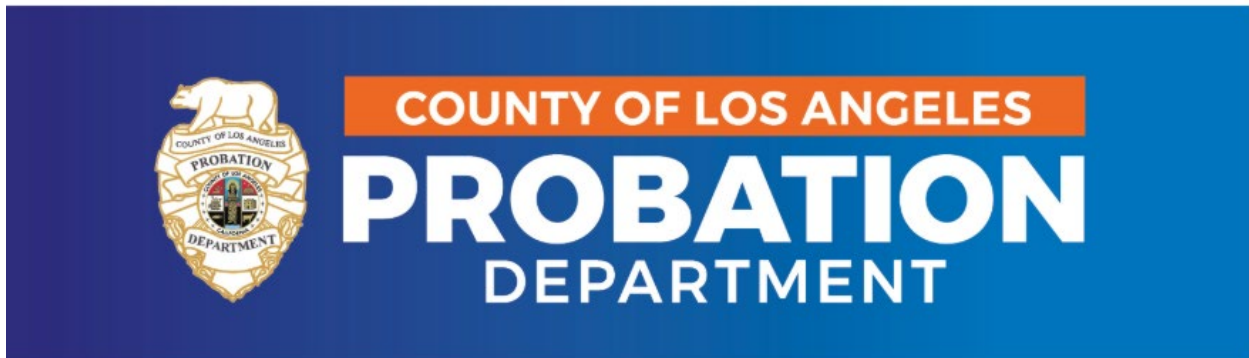
From April 17-April 23, one Probation employee (from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall) tested positive for COVID-19. Since the pandemic began, 17 Probation staff that have tested positive for COVID-19. Nine of those staff members work in Juvenile facilities although two of the staff members have been on leave and were not at work when they tested positive.

These employees are legally entitled to privacy and we will provide no further details at this time. For each employee who has tested positive, the County will notify potential workplace contacts, including other employees who may have been in close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual.

Currently there are 29 youth at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall who are being isolated from the rest of the camp due to possible exposure. The youth are doing well and not showing any symptoms. The Department has medical professionals from Juvenile Court Health Services and Department of Mental Health who are continually monitoring the health and well-being of youth that are in those units including checking their symptoms twice a day.

Testing of Youth for COVID-19

Four youth have been tested for COVID-19 over the past week, none of which were positive. One test remains pending. A total of 15 youth have been tested for COVID-19 overall, with no youth testing positive.



Juvenile Intake Procedures: Screening on Entry into Juvenile Hall

The Department continues to screen all youth admitted to facilities for risk of COVID-19 infection at the time of admission. Should it be required, Probation and Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) have identified appropriate space to isolate youth with medical issues. Probation and JCHS continue to complete a screening that includes asking questions related to infectious diseases which continue to be part of the Initial Intake Questionnaire. JCHS is immediately notified if any symptoms that are associated with the COVID-19 are observed, if the youth has had close contact with an individual with COVID-19 or if the youth has traveled to an area previously identified as a COVID-19 area of concern.

Health Care Services

- Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) continues to work with Probation facility staff regarding the care of the youth in the Quarantine and Isolation units to prevent potential spread of disease.
- JCHS nurses have trained selected Probation staff at the juvenile halls and camps for the use of infrared thermometers on all staff and visitors upon entry to the facility.

Clinical resources:

A DHS Infectious Disease specialist is assigned to assist correctional facilities. He will be a clinical resource for medical staff to help workflow and answer clinical questions.

Admissions:

Admission processes remain the same. Efforts are being made to be sure that youth are being screened as early as possible. Measures are in place to quarantine any youth with symptoms in the safest way possible.

Clinics:

Workflows are continuing to be reviewed and refined as necessary to be sure that youth are being seen for necessary appointments safely. Specialty clinic appointments outside the juvenile hall are to be either made via phone visits or rescheduled as much as possible.

Releases from a Probation facility:

Any quarantined or isolated youth will need to be reviewed with JCHS to be sure that the receiving location is aware of the medical status of the youth and can maintain the appropriate level of housing for the youth. If necessary, Public Health will also be made aware as appropriate.



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Staffing of Juvenile Facilities

The Department ensures that all critical security and safety posts are manned as required by the Board and State Community Standards and in accordance with the Department's Emergency Operations Plan. Contingency plans have been developed and put in place if facilities are not adequately staffed. Juvenile and Adult Field Operations have been designated to assist and have continued to report to the halls and camps since March 23, 2020.

Facility	No. of Staff Reported 4/21/20	No. of Staff Reported 4/22/20
BJNJH	27	31
CJH	56	52
CBA	19	11
CGR	11	7
CJP	10	13
CVK	11	3
DKC	26	20
TOTAL	160	137

Expanded Precautions at Institutions

In addition to efforts outlined in past updates, Probation has made additional efforts to keep youth and staff safe from COVID-19:

- The Department has issued masks to all staff and youth in juvenile halls and residential camps.
- A scheduled delivery of sanitizing stations will take place soon and installations will begin upon arrival.
- A town hall conference meeting took place April 15 hosted by the Department of Health Services (DHS). The participants of the meeting included probation managers from juvenile institutions, and personnel from Juvenile Health Court Services (JCHS). Probation managers were briefed on infection control and guidelines to establish safety in response to COVID-19.
- As a precautionary measure, movements from the halls to camps and camps to halls have been temporarily halted.



All Probation facilities have been instructed to conduct additional deep-cleaning efforts in high-traffic, high-volume areas, including visiting and health care facilities. Staff have also been granted permission to carry up to 2 ounces of personal-use hand sanitizer. Public Health guidelines are reinforced daily to all staff and youth of the importance of social distancing and frequent handwashing.

Procurement of PPE and Enhanced Cleaning Efforts

Administrative services continue to purchase personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer as quickly as possible. Our cumulative purchase volume of masks exceeded 100,000 as of this week, with deliveries anticipated over the next two to three weeks. At times, scheduled deliveries do not occur because items are understandably diverted to health care providers.

The Probation Department has continued to utilize the hygiene and cleaning plans outlined in the first weekly update.

Additional hygiene and cleaning efforts include:

- A scheduled delivery of sanitizing stations will take place and installations will begin upon arrival beginning the week of April 19. (shipment has not arrived yet due to a delay by the vendor)
- As of April 22, alcohol wipes were distributed to all facilities to ensure handheld radios are cleaned frequently.
- Probation's Management Services Bureau continue to provide janitorial services at facilities to ensure all bathrooms and staff quarters (where applicable) are cleaned daily and have readily available hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper and disinfectant. The Department has also hired additional staff to clean and disinfect common touch areas twice per shift.



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Social Distancing Efforts in Institutions

- Limiting the congregation of youth to small groups of 6 or less
- Rearranging scheduled movements to minimize mixing of individuals from different housing areas
- Having a youth shower individually as opposed to several youth at a time
- Maximizing outside space during recreation
- Conducting staggered meals (having youth sit at different tables in small groups)
- Having an identified space for youth who are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Instructing staff to comply with social distancing when coming on or off duty
- Having youth sleep head to toe in camps
- Having DMH and JCHS communicate with youth by phone when appropriate

COVID-19 Communications with Youth

JCHS presented a PowerPoint presentation to educate youth in the halls and camps about COVID-19 and the proper precautions to take while housed in the facility. Probation and medical staff were present to answer any questions or concerns the youth have about the pandemic. Town Hall meetings continue to be held to alleviate rumors and youth's anxiety in addition to reinforcing proactive personal hygiene practices such as daily frequent hand washing, coughing into the upper sleeve and social distancing. Youth continue to be advised to notify staff if they are not feeling well or are displaying any symptoms associated with COVID-19.

Communications to Clients and Families about COVID-19

Juvenile Institutional Managers are provided with daily COVID-19 updates. In addition, they continue to participate in weekly conference calls hosted by Emergency Management to share information and obtain COVID-19 updates from partner agencies. In addition, efforts to provide youth and families with COVID-19 information include:

- Posting of DPH signage outside each facility and inside the living units, restrooms, kitchen, staff sleeping quarters.
- Interagency town hall meetings with JCHS nurses to address concerns, answer questions and provide plan
- Contacting parents, and community-based organizations and advising on the cancelation of all normal visitations.
- Mailing of COVID-19 information flyers for parents and community



Youth-Parent Communications

In-person visitation at juvenile halls and residential treatment facilities remains temporarily suspended.

The Department has successfully tested virtual visits at Central Juvenile Hall utilizing Google Duo to maintain family reunification. Currently, policy and guidelines are in the final stages before the virtual visits can be implemented on a larger scale. Additionally, iPhones have been distributed to all camps and juvenile halls are awaiting their shipment. The work locations need to set up configuration address security issues a before fully implementing FaceTime on the iPhones at the facilities.

The Department has also collaborated with LACOE to increase accessibility for virtual visits by utilizing Microsoft Teams on their laptops. These laptops will be in spaces/classrooms called Family Connection Rooms. Youth will be able to connect with family members that have computer access or a smartphone. On April 20, 2020, this new avenue of virtual visits started at Campus Kilpatrick and the Department will be moving forward with the new technology for all camps.

All youth are also provided with supplies for letter writing such as paper, pencils, crayons etc. The Department pays for all postage regardless of the number of letters a youth sends out.

Efforts to Address the Medically Fragile Population in Detention Facilities

With the release of the one pregnant youth April 14, Probation does not currently have any youth with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions placing them at higher risk for COVID infection. To the extent any youth have underlying medical conditions which might exacerbate the impact of COVID infection if one were to occur, the Department continues to work with JCHS to assess and address them on a case by case basis.

Probation Procedures for Quarantine and Isolation

Youth that are quarantined due to possible exposure by another youth or staff are separated to a different unit and the unit in question is cleaned and sanitized immediately. JCHS check on the quarantined youth symptoms twice daily and notifies management of any concerns that arise.

Youth who have tested positive will be housed in a designated isolation unit. Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) has designated living unit W1 and W2 for males and living unit X and Y for females. BJN has designated living unit A and B for males and living unit T and V for females. In the



event, that a youth from camp tests positive they will remain in juvenile hall and be assigned to one of the designated units. The designated living units will only house positive youth and they will be kept separate and apart from other youth until cleared by medical staff to return to a traditional housing assignment.

PPE:

Medical staff are wearing PPE on a voluntary basis but are required to wear PPE when medical care is needed. Discussions are being made to have surgical masks for all clinical encounters. However, social distancing is recommended whenever possible and good hand hygiene is still encouraged. More hand sanitizers are being obtained to give to medical staff on an individual basis for quicker access to perform hand hygiene. Efforts are underway to have N95 masks collected and sterilized per DHS guidelines.

Youth with upper respiratory infection symptoms:

Working with probation staff at the juvenile halls, units were identified to be used to quarantine any youth with exposures to known COVID-19 cases or isolate those with symptoms of upper respiratory infections. Testing will be done on these youths on a case-by-case basis with assistance from Public Health and DHS Infectious Disease staff. If symptomatic, youth will be isolated for at least seven days.

Mental Health Services

Probation is working with the Department of Mental Health to start implementing “virtual counseling” for our youth at the halls and camps through video conferencing for routine appointments. This does not include youth who require de-escalation or who are on an Enhanced Supervision level. These youth will still receive in person services from staff who are currently on-site. The technology will be piloted at the halls and if successful, the platform will expand to the camps.

School for Youth in Juvenile Facilities

The Department is collaborating with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to implement remote learning utilizing laptops. Pilot sessions have been conducted and Central Juvenile Hall will be launching the first remote instruction beginning April 16. The remaining facilities will begin on different dates throughout this week and the following week.



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Youth Recreational and Enrichment Activities

Outdoor programs are continuing to be conducted as weather permits. Programs are being conducted outside as it is feasible to maintain social distancing. Additionally, the Department has taken inventory of each facility needs in terms of books, magazines, board games, TV/movies and sports equipment and are in the process of acquiring extra equipment in addition to reading materials.

Rehabilitative Programs

During this time, Probation Education Services staff continue to provide the following services:

- Youth Work Program: In collaboration with Workforce Development and Aging Community Services (WDACS), youth will continue to gain work experience and earn a paycheck in the Camps and Halls. Youth work for an average of 120 hours which includes 20 hours of paid Personal Enrichment Training (PET) facilitated by trained Probation Education Services Staff. Each participant receives an employment transition plan upon their release from the camp or hall.
- Book Clubs: Education services staff facilitate multiple book clubs throughout the camps and halls.
- R.I.S.E (Resilience and Intergroup Solidarity Education): RISE consists of 25 small group sessions that reinforce team building, coping skills and provides conflict resolution techniques among other skills.
- Career safe Certification: This program provides on-demand training courses in the area of OSHA designed to improve workplace safety, compliance and risk management. Youth are able to enroll in various 10-hour courses that lead to valuable training certificates.
- College Classes
- Youth Council: Youth involved in the council are given the opportunity to voice their concerns and offer ideas to improve their camp programs. This allows them to gain confidence and be empowered through their decision-making. They are given the opportunity through the program to have their voices heard and make important decisions to positively impact their futures.
- Art Programs through Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network using distance learning strategies (conference call, cell phones, laptops)
- Life Skills: Budgeting, Nutrition, Conflict Resolution, Stress Management, Parenting, Basic Hygiene Practices and so many other topics are covered in our Life Skills class. Many youth have questions about various aspects of life as they transition from their teenage years into young adulthood. This class offers a flexible curriculum to



provide the instructor the opportunity to provide instruction relevant to what the youth are interested in learning about in that moment. This Montessori style approach meets the youth where they are, and increases the likelihood of retained interest and engagement in the material

All programming facilitated accounts for social distancing and small group settings.

Plan for Virtual Court Hearings

Video Court for the halls continue to operate effectively. Moving forward, The Department is exploring conducting 730 evaluations ordered by the court virtually. A test pilot conducted on 4/17/20 was successful and we are now collaborating with Internal Services Bureau to develop a methodology to schedule appointments. The first evaluation to go live is tentatively planned for the week of 4/27/20.

A youth that needs to attend court but is in a quarantined unit will not be transported to court. The youth will also not be using a Virtual Court workstation. The unit staff will need to work closely with the Virtual Court Coordinators and the youth will be allowed to phone in to the virtual hearing from his or her quarantined unit.

Living arrangements for Youth upon Release

By law, Probation must always take steps to avoid release of youth to homelessness. All releases continue to happen in consultation with a parent/caregiver or, where none is available, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Probation Placement.

Beginning with the initial MDT, the youth's transition plan into the community is discussed. If the youth is under the care of DCFS or has a history of being in suitable placement, the youth is flagged to ensure their transition plan includes housing, in consultation with DCFS and/or Probation Placement. If the youth is set for family reunification the home is assessed by the field DPO. If the home is deemed unsuitable, the transition officer will work with placement to find a relative. If placement is the only option, the youth is referred to Residential Based Services to start the interagency screening and the camp facilitates the interview.

If the youth is over 18, and the youth has previous placement, youth will qualify for AB12 and/or Independent Living Program. Most times the court will terminate probation and the youth will be placed in transitional bed with the Housing Authority, but at the very least go to a shelter.



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Suitable Placement

- Expediting movement of youth from Juvenile Hall to Probation Assessment Centers for youth pending new suitable placement or replacement orders
- Continued face to face contacts with youth placed in Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), with Resources Families (relatives/non-relative homes). Also, non-minor Dependents placed in Foster Care through Transitional Housing Programs and Supervised Independent Living Programs.
- Providing mutual aid to other Probation Departments throughout the state by providing face to face contact with youth who have been placed in STRTPs in the County of Los Angeles.
- Continued participation on the weekly County Leadership call with STRTP Leadership to proactively work through potential issues that might surface for staff and/or youth as a result of being exposed to or contracting COVID-19.

Juvenile Services Field Division

- Monthly telephone contact with all juvenile probationers
- Weekly contacts with High-Risk Offenders, specifically the Intensive Gang Supervision Program
- Providing assistance and information pamphlets/guides to families unable to travel to obtain food items from food centers as set up by various school districts and other community resources
- Currently surveying youth/caregivers to determine the barriers for youth unable to connected with an academic program with an eye toward connecting youth to or providing the necessary resources to engage in academic programming
- Court Officers continue to report daily to juvenile court departments
- Citation Diversion Court hearings postponed until further notice



Adult Division

Field Probation COVID-19 Precautions and related activities

Area offices remain closed to the public. Deputy Probation Officers continue to maintain contact with probation clients by phone, email and videoconference. Clients are encouraged to reach out to their assigned probation officer as well. The Department continues to conduct field visits and is prioritizing cases where there are vulnerable victims, sex offenders, and any other circumstances that are considered high risk or require special attention. In addition to conducting safety checks, officers are providing COVID-19 Public Health information and resources. Additionally, the Department released a notice instructing adult field DPOs to work with clients experiencing financial difficulty as it relates to fines and fees.

Adult Field Services is working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to facilitate the release of inmates back to Los Angeles County and is collaborating with the Sheriff's Department to assist in clearing the inmates for possible release. Probation is working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department to process these individuals and assist with appropriate orientation, addressing housing and other emergent needs.

The Adult Division is also doing a special outreach to probationers who fall within the vulnerable/high risk age group and may have preexisting health conditions. The outreach is to provide information as published by the county and other subject matter experts and to encourage them to take care of themselves.

Deputy Probation Officers assigned to the Adult Division also continue to support the staffing in juvenile institutions.

Probation Efforts Statewide

Statement from Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC):

<https://www.cpoc.org/post/california-probation-chiefs-statement-protocols-dedicated-keeping-probation-clients-staff-and>

Communication and guidance to public

For information or services, clients and members of the community may call the juvenile facilities. For general questions, please contact the Probation Information Center at 866-931-2222 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To view previous Probation COVID-19 updates, please visit

<https://probation.lacounty.gov/coronavirus/#1585353402662-50edeac8-16c9>