



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Los Angeles County Probation COVID-19 Weekly Update September 11, 2020

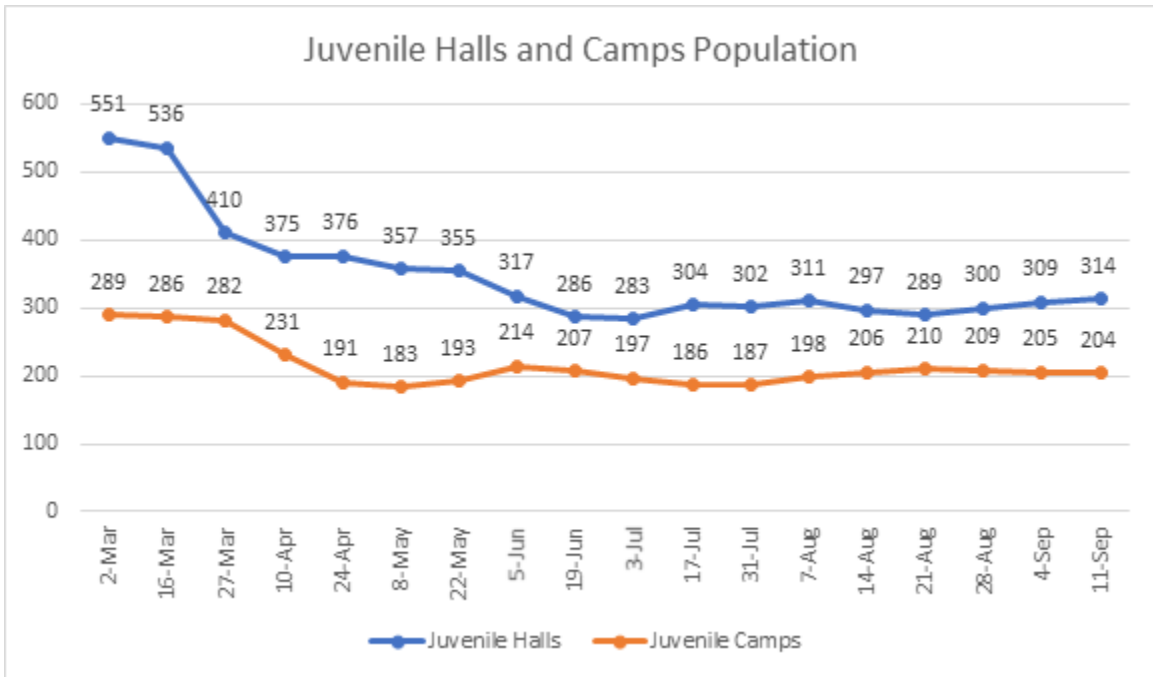
L.A. County Probation COVID-19 at a glance for the week ending Sept. 11, 2020

Youth testing positive for COVID-19 this week	2 (upon admission)
Number of youth currently isolated from general population due to a positive COVID-19 test	3
Total number of youth testing positive upon intake since pandemic began	46
Total number of existing youth testing positive since pandemic began	17
Youth tested for COVID-19 this week	48
Total number of youth tested for COVID-19 since pandemic began	1,630 (922 youth tested upon admission; 486 tested from juvenile hall general population, 222 tested from camp general population.)
Probation staff testing positive for COVID-19 this week	5
Probation Juvenile Institution staff testing positive for COVID-19 since pandemic began	73
Probation field and administrative staff testing positive for COVID-19 since pandemic began	81
Number of youth currently under quarantine due to exposure to individual testing positive for COVID-19	28

Juvenile Division

Reducing the Population in Juvenile Facilities

Over the last week, the Los Angeles County juvenile hall population rose from 309 to 314 and the juvenile residential camp population decreased from 205 to 204 over the same period. Since March 2, the juvenile hall population has decreased by 237 youth, or 43% and the juvenile camp population has decreased by 85 youth, or 29.4%.



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. A new warrant protocol has been developed after other jurisdictions around the State were surveyed to find other tools instead of automatic detention for warrants. This exploration process led to a reimagining of the Warrant detention protocol. The protocol was developed, vetted with the courts and stakeholders, and was implemented June 23. Warrants led to approximately 30% of detentions before this change. The expectation is this new protocol will lead to reduced police/youth contact and a significant reduction in detention numbers.

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. A DHS Infectious Disease specialist is assigned to assist correctional

facilities. He is a clinical resource for medical staff to help workflow and answer clinical questions.

The Department has continued to partner with JCHS to develop telemedicine services for assessment and consultation by medical staff and to build 24/7 capacity that currently does not exist. Telemedicine workstations are now operational in all juvenile halls and camps.

L.A. County Probation and Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) continues to closely monitor the health of youth in Probation juvenile facilities. Besides testing youth displaying possible COVID-19 symptoms, all youth who are entering and departing juvenile hall for another facility are tested for COVID-19. Youth who have tested positive are housed in a designated isolation unit, separate and apart from other youth until cleared by medical staff to return to a traditional housing assignment. Additionally, all youth in juvenile facilities are provided with masks.

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 is also conducting infrared temperature checks on all individuals entering juvenile facilities.

Employees testing positive 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. All Probation staff have been instructed to wear face coverings in line with County and State Health Orders as part of an employee outreach campaign.

Staffing of Juvenile Facilities

The Department ensures that all critical security and safety posts are staffed 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.

Expanded Precautions at Probation Offices and Facilities

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.
- Flu shot clinics are being planned for staff in juvenile institutions. JCHS is making plans for the vaccination of youth against the seasonal flu as well.
- 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.

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 personal-use hand sanitizer. Public Health guidelines are reinforced daily to all staff and youth of the importance of social distancing and frequent handwashing.

Youth-Parent Communications

In person weekend visitation did not take place at juvenile institutions last weekend due to the excessive heat in Los Angeles County and will not take place this weekend due to the extremely unhealthy air quality. The decision to cancel weekend visitation is made in close consultation with JCHS and are affected by environmental concerns as visitations are taking place outdoors because of COVID-19 precautions.

When visitations do occur, Parents and guardians follow safety precautions put in place, including outdoor visits, physical distancing, usage of hand sanitizing stations and having their temperature checked via infrared thermometers as well as a designated custodian who was responsible for cleaning chairs and tables after each visit. Procedures for visiting are sent out to parents as well as posted on the [Probation website](#). Increased collaboration and partnership with JCHS and the Department of Public Health takes place to ensure health and safety is properly addressed as visiting sessions are reopened. The resumption of visitation at facilities is taking place as a phased, week by week approach, with safety focused criteria dictating the pace and locations.

The Probation Department continues to utilize virtual platforms for keeping families connected when in person visits are not available. Youth are still able to make free phone calls to families and are also provided with supplies for letter writing. The Department pays for all postage regardless of the number of letters a youth sends out.

Other Juvenile Facilities Highlights

- In person religious services that were tentatively scheduled to start at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall this weekend were canceled in consultation with JCHS due to the extremely unhealthy air quality. In place of in person services, juvenile halls have been providing virtual church services in coordination with the Los Angeles Archdiocese and Chaplain's Eagles.

- Probation Education Services has partnered with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office to provide voter registration information to youth in the detention facilities. This initiative builds a sense of belonging, civic responsibility, and assists in community building. Education Services staff trained in voter education and are actively engaging with the youth to support them into the voter registration process. The pre-registration services are provided to youth between the ages of 16 and 17. The youth who are 18 years of age and older have completed their voter registration forms and are eligible to vote during elections.
- A representative from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 11) made a virtual presentation to youth at Campus Kilpatrick as part of the facility's electronics program. DPO Sims has been mentoring youth from Campus Kilpatrick in the field of electronics for several months and the goal of this presentation is to inform youth in this program about career pathways with IBEW.

Efforts to Address the Medically Fragile Population in Detention Facilities

The Probation Department continues to not have any youth with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions placing them at higher risk for COVID-19 infection. As previously reported, if any youth have other underlying medical conditions which might exacerbate the impact of such infection if one were to occur, the Department will work with Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) to assess and address those issues on a case by case basis.

Mental Health Services

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) implemented virtual counseling kiosks in Juvenile facilities to supplement the existing in person services provided to youth.

School for Youth in Juvenile Facilities

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) efforts to provide a quality education to youth in Probation facilities during the pandemic can be found at <https://www.lacoe.edu/LACOE-Schools/Covid-19-Distance-Learning-Plan>.

Virtual Court Hearings

Video Court for the juvenile facilities continue to operate effectively. A youth that needs to attend court but is in a quarantined unit will not be transported to court.

Juvenile Placement Update

As of September 3, 2020, there are 214 youth placed in short term residential treatment programs (STRTP). In addition, there are 21 youth placed in out of state residential programs and 24 youth placed with resource families. There is 1 STRTP youth in quarantine and 4 in quarantine who are placed out of state. Currently there are no youth in STRTP who have tested positive for COVID-19.

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 clients continue to receive housing support through contracts with the Health Right 360 housing services.

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

County Disaster Service Worker Volunteers

The Adult CORE Bureau recognizes that their crucial role is in the community and has been supporting the County by serving as disaster service workers (DSW) when called upon. For the months of July and August there were a total 89 CORE Bureau staff who volunteered to serve the community as DSW's, assisting at food banks, Personal Protective Equipment distributions, and staffing public cooling centers.

CDCR Accelerated Release Project

The Probation Department continues to receive new clients for AB109 supervision due to early prison release dates from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). There have been approximately 2,800 early releases since April 2020. During the month of August there were 640 early releases to the Probation Department. As of August 31, 2020, there have been 10 releases on isolation and 134 on quarantine status.

Communication with the Public

The L.A. County Probation Department, in conjunction with DPH, DMH, JCHS and LACOE, hosted a townhall July 22 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on juvenile institutions and the Department's operations as a whole. The townhall can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/FutuMp8nY9o>.

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.

Future Updates

The care of youth in Probation facilities is a joint effort between the L.A. County Probation Department, Juvenile Court Health Services, Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. During the COVID-19 crisis, these agencies have collaborated to create an environment of safety and stability for the youth under their care.

We are pleased that the situation in our juvenile facilities has remained largely stable during the COVID crisis and this creates an opportunity to respond to your needs for additional information about the situation. Accordingly, we invite questions related to the County's response to COVID-19 in its juvenile probation facilities or topics you would like to see addressed in future updates. Please email any questions to prob-news@probation.lacounty.gov and we will select questions and provide responses in future weekly updates. Please note that we cannot discuss the circumstances of any individual youth assigned to probation facilities or any pending litigation.

To view previous Probation COVID-19 updates, please visit <https://probation.lacounty.gov/coronavirus>.



The Los Angeles County Probation Department is committed to rebuilding lives and providing for healthier and safer communities for all 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, the Probation Department's mission is to enhance public safety, ensure victims' rights and effect positive probationer behavioral change. The Probation Department comprises nearly 6,100 employees and has an operational budget of \$900 Million as of 2019.

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