



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

## Los Angeles County Probation COVID-19 Weekly Update December 31, 2020

### **Efforts to address the medically fragile population in detention facilities**

The Probation Department currently does not have any youth with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions placing them at higher risk for COVID-19 infection. Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) has identified 9 youth in care with underlying medical conditions which might exacerbate the impact of such infection. There are 8 youth in the juvenile halls and 1 in the camp. If infection were to occur JCHS and the Probation Department will be working together on individualized plans to address their care.

### **Efforts to further reduce population in adult and juvenile detention facilities while balancing public safety**

The Probation Department's juvenile detention population has declined during the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 2, 2020, the juvenile detention population was 840.

On December 31, 2020, the population was 429. The population in juvenile halls was 275 and the population in camps was 154.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has continued to schedule early releases from California prisons to the Probation Department AB109 program for supervision. The number of early releases has declined significantly in the last four months. As of December 15, 2020, there have been 2,785 early releases scheduled from CDCR.

### **Efforts to provide resources to support those released from jails, and juvenile detention facilities in order to prevent homelessness**

The Probation Department continues to make efforts to reduce the population in juvenile halls by releasing youth to parents, guardians, and suitable placements when appropriate.

The Probation Department continues to partner with CDCR to receive early releases from California prisons to AB109 supervision in the communities. All homeless adult clients are provided with housing referrals to prevent homelessness.

### **Plans for adequate quarantining and isolation of individuals in custody**

The Probation Department continues to utilize the plans for quarantine and isolation in accordance with the Public Health Order for the control of COVID-19.

All isolations and quarantines in detention facilities continue to occur in partnership with JCHS personnel. Upon entry to probation facilities, all youth will continue to be tested for COVID-19 and remain in isolation until results are received. As of December 31, 2020, 126 youth had tested positive for COVID-19. There are 81 youth who tested positive at admission. There have been 45 youth who have tested positive for COVID-19 while in care: 9 at Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC), 13 from BJNJH, 9 at Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR), 6 at Central Juvenile Hall(CJH), 4 at Camp Afflerbaugh (CBA) and 4 from Camp Joseph Paige (CJP).

As of December 22, 2020, there are 177 youth in quarantine due to possible exposure to COVID-19. There are 58 at CJH, 51 at CJH, 30 at CJP, 19 at CGR, and 13 at Campus Kilpatrick (CVK) and 6 at DKC. All juvenile hall living units and camps under quarantine have full programming, apart from in-person visiting. Youth under quarantine continue to have access to virtual visiting and an increase in telephone communication with families. The youth continue to participate in programming with their living unit, with limits set to avoid interaction with the non-quarantine youth. The youth under quarantine in juvenile halls have individual laptops for virtual remote learning services, provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Education (LACOE).

The quarantined youth in camp continue to have the same programming and activities. The camps under quarantine remain closed to newly admitted youth who have been given camp dispositions from juvenile court. JCHS has taken extra precautions in placing living units and camps under quarantine due to the increase in the community of COVID-19 positive cases.

### **Increased washing of hands, hygiene, additional cleaning supplies and custodial services**

The Probation Department has continued to utilize the hygiene and cleaning plans outlined in the first weekly update. The Probation Department continues to receive additional supplies to assist with cleaning and enhanced safety measures. The field offices have safety plans in place that evolve to keep pace with local and state health orders.

### **Screening of youth, focus on healthy staffing in the detention facilities**

The Probation Department continues to screen newly detained youth upon their arrival to juvenile hall. They are separated from other youth until negative COVID-19 results are received. Employees continue to be screened prior to their entrance into detention facilities. Youth who have tested positive remain in medical isolation and those youth who potentially have been exposed have been quarantined and continue to be monitored by JCHS.

Additions include the following:

- As of December 31, 2020, there have been 2,965 youth tested for COVID-19 since testing was initiated on May 3, 2020.
- There have been 1,611 youth tested upon admission in juvenile halls, 939 tested from juvenile hall's general population, and 415 tested from the camp population.
- As of December 31, 2020, 481 Probation Department employees have tested positive for COVID-19.

Of this 481, 232 employees work in detention facilities and 249 work in field offices, which includes 3 contract employees.

### **Plan for virtual contact with visitation, keeping families connected and increased communication**

As of December 7, 2020, in-person visiting has been suspended for the juvenile halls and camps, due to the current Public Health Stay at Home Order. The suspension is expected to be temporary and will resume when it is determined to be safe for the visitors and the detained youth. The facilities have increased virtual visitations and telephone calls to parents and guardians during the temporary suspension on in-person visits.

### **Additional Information**

As of December 31, 2020, 264 youth have been placed in STRTPs, 238 of whom are in California, 21 of whom are in California with Resource Families, and 5 of whom are placed in STRTP's out of California. As of December 31, 2020, there are 23 youth in quarantine in state and 12 youth in state have tested positive for COVID-19.

Currently the Probation Department is working closely with the juvenile courts, and partner agencies to move youth from out of state STRTP's. On December 8, 2020, there were 21 youth placed out of state. As of December 31, 2020, there are 5 youth placed out of state. There are 9 youth who were re-placed in to STRTP's in state, 6 youth who were placed home on probation, and 1 youth was terminated from probation services.

## 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 [COVIDquestions@probation.lacounty.gov](mailto:COVIDquestions@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>



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