

**Los Angeles County Probation  
COVID-19 Weekly Update  
February 19, 2021**

**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 10 youth in care with underlying medical conditions which might exacerbate the impact of such infection. There are 8 youth in the juvenile halls and 2 in 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 total juvenile detention population was 840.

On February 17, 2021 the population was 448. The population for the two juvenile halls was 305 and the population for the five camps was 143. Since last week, the population in juvenile hall remained the same and there was a slight increase in the camps population. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic through February 17, 2021, there has been a 46 percent decline in juvenile detention population.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has continued to schedule early releases from California prisons to the Probation Department AB109 program. As of February 18, 2021, there have been 2,879 early releases scheduled from CDCR. There have been 14 early releases for the month of February.

## **Efforts to provide resources to support those released from jails, and juvenile detention facilities 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. Youth are not released into the community without a place to live.

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. The AB109 program has received 4 CDCR releases for February that were referred to housing due to a homeless status upon release from prison.

## **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 to reduce the transmission 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 continue to be tested for COVID-19 and remain apart from the general population and living units under quarantine.

As of February 17, 2021, 221 youth have tested positive for COVID-19. There are 109 youth who tested positive at admission. There have been 112 youth who have tested positive for COVID-19 while in care: 43 at BJNJH, 15 at CJH, 15 at Camp Joseph Paige (CJP), 14 at Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC), 9 at Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR), 7 at Camp Clifton Afflerbaugh (CBA), and 9 at Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK).

As of February 17, 2021, there were 33 youth in quarantine due to a possible exposure to COVID-19: 22 are at BJNJH and 11 are at CVK. Youth residing in quarantine living units do not interact with youth in non-quarantine living units. There has been a 72 percent decrease of youth in quarantine since last week's report.

All juvenile hall living units and camps under quarantine have full programming. Youth under quarantine continue to have access to virtual visiting and an increase in telephone communication with families. The youth in quarantine continue to participate in programming with their living unit, with limits set to avoid interaction with the non-quarantined 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 programming and activities. The camps under quarantine remain closed to newly admitted youth who have been given camp dispositions from juvenile court. Quarantined units are precautionary

measures that have been placed due to a possible COVID-19 exposure and the youth are monitored to identify illness if present.

### **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 February 17, 2021, there have been 3,665 youth tested for COVID-19 since testing was initiated on May 3, 2020.
- There have been 1,936 youth tested upon admission in juvenile halls, 1,227 tested from juvenile hall's general population, and 502 tested from the camp population.
- As of February 17, 2021, 762 Probation Department employees have tested positive for COVID-19. This is an increase of five additional positive reports since last week's report.
- Of the 762 employees, 381 employees work in detention facilities and 381 work in field offices, which includes 3 contract employees.
- There are currently 34 positive cases among employees for February.

The Probation Department continues monitoring to ensure employees are wearing masks, washing hands, and continuing with physical distancing.

### **In Person visitation resumes, Virtual visitation continues to keep families connected and increase communication**

As of December 7, 2020, in-person visiting had been suspended for the juvenile halls and camps, due to the Public Health Safer at Home Order. The facilities increased virtual visitations and telephone calls to parents and guardians during this time.

In-person visiting resumed on February 13, 2021. Safety protocols were in place, which required face coverings and physical distancing. In addition, a COVID-19 screening and a temperature check were conducted prior to entering the grounds. All in-person visiting was conducted outdoors.

In this first weekend of resuming in person visitation, 52 youth in juvenile hall and 34 youth in camp received in person visits. Three units at BJNJH could not receive visitors because they are still under quarantine. Likewise, Camp Kilpatrick did not have in-person visiting due to their quarantine status.

In-person religious services also began on February 13, 2021 and included the same safety precautions as the in-person visiting.

### **Additional Information**

As of February 18, 2021, there are 248 youth in short term residential treatment programs (STRTP) and 19 youth with Resource Families. There are currently 2 youth positive for COVID-19 in STRTPs and there are 5 youth in quarantine due to a possible exposure to COVID-19.


### **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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