



Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHERN VIRGINIA JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER COVID-19 UPDATES and TEMPORARY PROTOCOLS

The Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center (NVJDC) and Shelter Care program are taking all preventive measures in our facilities to protect the health and well-being of our residents and staff from possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus. As of this date, 4/3/2020, there have been no residents or staff diagnosed with the virus or presenting symptomatic. Because we know the virus can be spread through people who are asymptomatic, we are following guidance from the Governor, Virginia Department of Health, our local Health Departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to minimize the potential for community spread.

The safety of our staff, residents, and the communities we serve is our top priority. To minimize the risk of community spread of COVID-19, and to protect the public health, and provide essential protections to our residents and staff it is reasonable and necessary to implement limited and temporary COVID-19 related protocols and procedures which include limiting facility entry to only essential personnel and requiring all persons entering our facilities to complete medical screenings and temperature checks. They will be denied entry if they decline to be screened or exhibit a fever or other signs of being unwell. Each newly admitted resident to the Center undergoes a thorough medical evaluation as part of the intake process. All residents have access to 24-hour medical care with the support of our full-time medical nurses, contracted medical provider, 24-hour medical on-call, and med-certified staff. If a resident requires additional treatment; the resident will be transported to urgent care or the nearest hospital as medically necessary. Newly admitted residents are housed separately while they are being monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. New residents must be cleared by our medical staff prior to being placed into the general population. In keeping with our practice of limiting time spent in sleeping rooms, no resident will be confined to a sleeping room outside of sleeping hours unless that resident is ill and ordered by our medical staff to do so, and then only for as long as medically necessary. If a resident receives a positive test for COVID-19, we will immediately notify the Court Service Unit Directors, Virginia Department of Health, our local Health Departments, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the family of the resident. We will follow the medical advice provided by the facility Nurses, and our contracted physicians for residents who are symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19 but are prepared to quarantine and treat residents here at the facility if a physician determines they do not require hospitalization.

The daily routine for our residents has changed only inasmuch as they are participating in distance learning for school and exercising safe physical separation space throughout the day. While this may be challenging, our residents and staff are aware of the importance of this practice and it is monitored and

documented to ensure we are faithful to it. Even though we have suspended all volunteer programming, our volunteers have stepped up and continue to provide materials for ongoing service provision and we are grateful for these critical partnerships. Our kids still enjoy a robust and engaging schedule which includes indoor gym and outdoor recreation as well as activities throughout the facility that are stimulating and promote health and well-being. None of the treatment service provision has been interrupted. We are facilitating some treatment sessions over the telephone and can support video treatment as well. We have also worked very closely with our Court Service Units and our Judges to handle many cases via video or telephone conference to limit the unnecessary transport of residents.

We have also been very proactive in implementing additional risk reduction protocols to ensure the safest possible environment. Specifically, these protocols include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring stringent sanitation by housekeeping and direct care staff throughout the facility
- Screening in a manner consistent with the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which include temperature checks and obtaining information about travel and any contact with persons with COVID-19 or under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19
- Restricting all visits except attorney related visits to video or telephone calls
- Increased access to soap and sanitizer for all residents and staff
- Posting signage and continually monitoring for social distancing, hand washing and personal hygiene
- Practicing social distancing in all programs and areas of the facility – meaning a distance of at least six feet between people in any meeting, classroom, or other group
- Established medical quarantine rooms and units for residents requiring such protocols
- Notifying Virginia Department of Health, and local Health Departments of any suspected case that meets the criteria for COVID-19
- Provision of essential personnel documentation for staff and a requirement for staff to provide full medical clearance before returning to work after reporting or being observed with symptoms
- Implementation of video calls and telephone calls for family and professional visits
- Documented screening of all staff, visitors (essential contract work), and residents at entry point
- Daily temperature checks of all residents in the facility
- Rescheduling of all non-emergency medical appointments

I will continue to keep abreast of guidance and ensure our response is in keeping with the guidelines of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Department of Health, and the CDC.

We encourage everyone to stay safe and visit this site often for updates: www.jdcnv.org

Sincerely,



Johnitha R. McNair
Executive Director