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**Data Snapshot:**

**Youth Data updated 4/6/20, 4:00 pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth COVID-19 Screening Data</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of youth screened by medical and determined to have COVID related symptoms (total youth tracked at any given point)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># cleared with negative test results</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># pending test results</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># monitored and do not meet criteria for formal testing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># no longer symptomatic</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Youth COVID-19 Testing Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of youth formally tested for COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of youth with positive test results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of youth with negative test results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of youth with pending test results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employee Data updated 4/3/20, 5:50pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of employees formally tested for COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of employees with positive test results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of employees with negative test results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of employees with pending test results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Background**

On March 10, Governor Jared Polis announced a state of emergency and an update on presumptive positives in Colorado. DYS understands that many family members and other stakeholders may be concerned about the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in a child/family member who resides in a youth center and how this virus may impact them.
Ensuring youth are cared for in a safe and healthy environment continues to be the Division of Youth Services’ (DYS) greatest concern and our number one priority.

DYS is following the recommendations of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on prevention steps. In addition, each of the Division’s youth centers are in close contact with the local and state health department and are following their guidance.

As this is an evolving situation, DYS continues to monitor while working to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis on youth and staff. DYS engages statewide leadership in daily huddle meetings by Department and Division central command posts 7 days per week to support and oversee action items required. The below guidance reflects the most up-to-date policies and protocol DYS has implemented. This document will continue to be updated as new information or questions arise.

**Contact Information**

Please direct all questions to Natalie Chrastil, the DYS Incident Commander for COVID-19. Natalie can be reached at Natalie.Chrastil@state.co.us.

**Pandemic Planning**

DYS provides critical services to youth, and is prepared to continue providing these services throughout the public health crisis. Please be assured that DYS has systems, plans, and policies in place to protect and care for both staff and youth. This responsibility is not taken lightly and DYS continues to evaluate this fluid and evolving situation with the health and safety of all guiding the decision-making process. DYS continues to employ a universal pandemic plan across all youth centers. Pertinent protocol has been updated for appropriateness to the novel coronavirus SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19).

**COVID-19 Screening**

**New Screening Procedures**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in facilities, DYS has initiated a comprehensive medical screening process for all new youth admissions. Any youth who develops symptoms in custody is referred and screened by medical. In addition, a proactive step of daily temperatures are taken of each youth in the Division’s care.

In addition, DYS has implemented a health screening process for anyone, including staff, prior to entry into a youth center. This includes secondary screenings, if warranted, by medical personnel. In addition, the Division of Youth Services is implementing universal masking of all direct care staff during the week of 3/30/20. This additional measure is a proactive step to ensure the health of both staff and youth.
Youth With COVID-19 Exposure and/or Symptoms

If a youth is symptomatic, medical staff will evaluate the youth to determine if concerns exist based on the screening intake staff complete with all admissions. Medical staff will assist in differentiating between COVID-19 and other illnesses that may have similar symptoms. If the youth requires testing, medical personnel will take a specimen and send it out for testing. If the youth requires testing, the youth center will be required to isolate and place the youth into a sick bed or medical quarantine until the results are in. Youth placed into a sick bed or medical quarantine are placed on a medical watch where they are checked every 15 minutes, with staff noting how they are doing. The youth on medical watch are also checked by medical staff a minimum of every 24 hours.

- For any scenario in which a youth has respiratory symptoms without other explanation, they are placed on a sick bed or medical quarantine with standard droplet precaution protocols.
- Any youth who has a concerning exposure to a known or suspected COVID-19 case is also placed into a medical quarantine.

COVID-19 Testing

Testing of youth has been targeted due to issues with capacity for processing tests statewide. Youth testing has occurred within youth centers. Testing of youth will be more aggressive as capacity improves. When testing is readily available, DYS will be testing any youth with respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (unless there is medical or scientific reason not to). Currently the Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Human Services is approving all COVID-19 testing based on medical acuity and potential spread of the virus.

Medical staff at the youth center are immediately informed of any youth testing results for COVID-19. Currently, DYS has 8 COVID-19 tests available (as of 3/31/20) and additional tests are available by the Department should they be needed.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Youth are actively involved in proactive measures to keep themselves healthy to include cleaning and regular access to handwashing/soap and hand sanitizer. There are ongoing verbal reminders and signs with fun memes posted to encourage youth to wash their hands and keep them from touching their face, nose, and eyes. Youth centers are also finding creative ways to engage and educate youth in the cleaning of their surroundings. From songs to sing while washing their hands, youth poster contests, to one youth center holding a “corona cleaning competition” to see which unit could smell the cleanest. Prizes were awarded for the winning pod.

In addition, DYS disinfects and cleans all high-touch surfaces multiple times per-day.
**Staffing**

The Division of Youth Services is implementing universal masking of all direct care staff during the week of 3/30. This additional measure is a proactive step to ensure the health of both staff and youth.

*Staff Exposure to COVID-19*

All COVID-19 screening procedures are currently applied to DYS staff. Any staff member who screens as positive for a risk factor may be required to return home pending a higher level of review. Upon responding with a “yes” on any question located on the screening checklist, a youth center medical staff will be notified to complete a further assessment on the staff (either in person or via telephone after hours, or with a written note from a personal physician). The DYS medical staff will then determine if the individual will need to return home, or is able to enter the youth center for work.

*Capacity Monitoring*

DYS is currently conducting a daily review of staffing and implemented active tracking systems to ensure proper levels of staffing at DYS facilities. Staff and youth are monitored for symptoms daily, and all necessary Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in stock. The State is employing additional measures to ensure adequate staffing remains throughout the youth centers.

*Incentive Pay*

DYS staff provide critical functions necessary to keep our youth safe, and therefore have continued providing 24/7 services at facilities. In recognition of the importance of these services and the value DYS employees provide, all youth center staff asked to work in a youth center will receive incentive pay during the COVID-19 crisis. This is regardless of whether or not the person is classified as “essential” in their position description.

*Visitation*

*General Guidance*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recommended a variety of steps that the Division is implementing to help reduce the potential for the virus to enter their centers.

DYS is limiting visits to only essential individuals. Limiting means individuals will not be allowed to come into the youth centers, except for certain exceptions, such as a professional visit, or a person essential for a youth’s legal or medical needs. DYS understands that youth connecting
with family members is incredibly important, and in lieu of in-person visits, youth centers have been initiating contact via phone or virtual visitation.

Visitor Screening

All employees, vendors, law enforcement, contractors, volunteers, delivery personnel, and visitors (regardless of title/role), will be screened upon intake to all youth centers. This includes law enforcement picking up youth for court. Visitors may further undergo secondary screenings, if warranted, by medical personnel.

Any visitor who has a positive response on the screening checklist, or appears ill, will be declined entry into the youth center.

Attorney Visits

Attorneys are approved to enter youth centers to meet with their clients. This also includes Guardian ad Litems (GALs). DYS asks that attorneys please complete the health screening prior to entry.

Use of Virtual Technology

DYS has increasingly worked to decrease face-to-face contacts by enhancing the use of video-conferencing and other virtual technology. To prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into facilities, DYS is moving all in-person family visitation to virtual visitation and/or phone calls. Additional information for visitors is included in the “Visitation” section.

In addition, DYS has reduced visits by outside service providers. These visits have been moved to virtual meetings to continue care where warranted (e.g. religious services).

Programming

Education

At this time, DYS commitment education will continue to serve youth within the normal timelines and structures that exist. As information and situations evolve and change, plans will be updated accordingly and communicated. These plans may include exploring online course work, distance learning, and other potential learning scenarios. This document will be updated with any changes to this process.

Detention education services are provided through the local school districts. Currently, as of 3/30/2020 all detained youth are on an extended spring break.

Religious Services
Religious services with a contract vendor (such as Youth for Christ) will continue to occur but only in cases where the service or session can be held remotely (phone or virtual). In-person visitation for religious services is not permitted at this time.

**Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings**

All MDT meetings will continue. All DYS youth center staff assigned to a youth’s MDT are able to attend in person following the health screen upon entry to the youth center. Client Managers, families, and external supports will attend via phone conference.

**Court Hearings**

Courts rapidly moved to video rather than in-person hearings, reducing in-person appearances in court and transportation outside of the youth center. Additional information may be found at the [Colorado Judicial Branch website](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/courts/court-operations/)

**Parole**

**Parole Hearings**

Juvenile Parole hearings will continue as scheduled. The Juvenile Parole Board (JPB) has developed the following guidelines and precautions:

- The Client Manager will be required to coordinate with the JPB to set up teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing at the hearing for family members or staff (including the youth’s assigned behavioral health staff) to provide testimony at the hearing. The Client Manager must inform the JPB Administrator no later than three days prior to the hearing. Teleconferencing and/or videoconferencing will then be made available.
- If anyone who is scheduled to attend the parole hearing in person falls ill, they are asked to not attend the hearing. The same options of video/teleconferencing will be made available to those individuals.
- The JPB staff will diligently clean before and after the hearing to maintain a clean and safe environment.

**Youth Awaiting Placement**

The local county departments of human or social services continue to do the work required by law, including the placement of youth. However, the Department of Human Services does not have the authority to require specific contract community-based placements to accept youth.

Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC) Coordinators in each of the Judicial Districts continue to track youth in detention and are in contact with juvenile justice professionals to
determine youth who can be released. The Division of Child Welfare at the Colorado Department of Human Services has intermediaries assigned to each of the 64 Counties to serve as a resource to the county for the continued work, including the placements of children, youth and juveniles.

**Additional Resources**

The Division sources information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). DYS encourages stakeholders to consult these resources for additional public health information.