

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

Department of Juvenile Services – Court Re-opening Protocols

March 9, 2021

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports the continued utilization of virtual methods for all hearings in the Juvenile Court, except contested matters that require in-person testimony. Although the State and DJS have made significant strides in vaccinating essential workers, many of the families and young people that are required for juvenile hearings have not yet been able to access the vaccine. COVID19 is still a threat to residents and staff in congregate care facilities, and it is essential that all system stakeholders continue to implement health and safety efforts to reduce the transmission of COVID19.

As the Courts move toward resuming full operations, the following protocols will be in place to support the continued health and safety of justice involved young people, staff, system stakeholders, and the community.

Transportation from DJS Detention and Committed Facilities

Generally, DJS will only transport one young person at a time to Court. DJS may transport up to two young people at a time, if those young people reside on the same facility-housing unit.

DJS will not transport young people that:

- Are experiencing symptoms consistent with the COVID19 virus;
- Are currently on a quarantine housing unit;
- Are currently in medical isolation; and/or
- Any young person not medically cleared by DJS medical staff.

****DJS requests at least 72 hours' notice prior to a transport to ensure completion of medical clearances and coordination of transportation resources.***

In-Court Procedures

DJS transportation staff will escort and remain with all young people transported to court and throughout the court proceedings to monitor and report any potential COVID19 exposures.

Return to Facility Procedures

When a young person returns to a facility after a court appearance, DJS medical staff will assess the need to quarantine the youth and/or request additional COVID19 testing.

Staff will consider the following factors upon return to a DJS facility:

- Contact the young person had with other inmates, i.e. were they in a lock-up area for more than 15 minutes with inmates/staff from others facilities.
- Contact with persons that are not wearing a mask or displaying COVID19 symptoms.
- Rate of community spread at the time of the court appearance.
- Presentation of symptoms consistent with the COVID19 virus.

For further information:

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