



Bon Air JCC COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: May 11, 2020



In an effort to keep you informed, please find below some FAQs about the COVID-19 Pandemic. We welcome you to submit additional questions to greg.davy@djj.virginia.gov if you do not find answers here.

Below are the questions answered in this FAQ. Click the question for easy navigation to that section.

New Sections:

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- Updated information in red

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Are there daily recreational opportunities for residents? Are sports such as basketball safe?

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What are the educational plans for the residents at Bon Air?

- Updated information in red

How do I communicate with my child?

- Updated information in red

What resources can I use to become more informed about COVID-19?Error! Reference source not found.

With COVID-19 positive cases confirmed at Bon Air, how is DJJ protecting youth?

Campus-Wide Quarantine

- Out of an abundance of caution, a campus-wide quarantine was instituted on 4/5/20.
- Our quarantine was based on specific guidance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to protect the health of residents by ensuring social distancing,
- We reduced the number of staff who are in the building at one time.
- We stopped all entry into the building except for staff assigned to work at the facility.

COVID-19 Testing

- We conduct screenings and do temperature checks of the residents twice per day, utilizing a "no touch" thermometer.

- Any youth with a temperature of 99 F or higher is tested for COVID-19.
- Our testing strategy is based on guidance from VDH.
- We are testing more youth and are testing them earlier than they would be tested in the community.
- Any resident who tests positive is placed in a medical unit for medical isolation per VDH guidelines.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All residents receive two cloth masks for their personal use. While one mask is worn, the other is laundered. This is done daily.
- All staff received two cloth masks and are required to wear a mask in the presence of a youth.
- All staff working in the units where youth test positive are being given additional PPE to wear.

Screening and Hygiene

- Anyone who comes into Bon Air JCC is screened in the lobby before entering the secure campus. Anyone who fails or refuses the screening cannot come onto the secure campus.
- Everyone entering the building must also wash and sanitize their hands in the lobby area.
- These efforts have resulted in a slowing of the spread of the virus.

Please see our website for additional information at <http://www.djj.virginia.gov/pages/about-djj/covid.htm>

How is DJJ communicating with parents or guardians?

Communicating COVID-19 Testing Information

- If a resident receives a COVID-19 test, medical or designed staff contacts parents or guardians by telephone.
- If a resident's test results are negative, medical staff contacts parents or guardians by telephone.
- If a resident's test results are positive, the health care provider contacts parents or guardians by telephone.
- If medical contact information is not available, the resident is asked who they would like notified of the above information.

Department Updates

- Any department updates or messages are shared in one or more of the following ways:
 - Mailed directly to parents or guardians.
 - Emailed to those that have provided email addresses.
 - Sent to parole officers to deliver when possible.
 - Posted on our website.
- We now have a new page, which provides additional information as well as a more organized way to post updates. Please check our new page at <http://www.djj.virginia.gov/pages/about-djj/covid.htm>

What medical care is provided to the youth?

Residents continue to receive 24-hour medical care from a fulltime DJJ physician and a team of licensed nurses.

COVID-19 Testing

- We conduct screenings and do temperature checks of the residents twice per day, utilizing a “no touch” thermometer.
- Any youth with a temperature of 99 F or higher is tested for COVID-19.
- Our testing strategy is based on guidance from VDH.
- We are testing more youth and are testing them earlier than they would be tested in the community.

- Any resident who tests positive is assessed, monitored, and/or treated by a medical provider.
- Residents who test positive are placed in a medical unit for medical isolation per VDH guidelines.
- The health care providers and nurses conduct rounds consistently daily to care for the youth in medical isolation.

During the quarantine, what is being provided to youth to keep them occupied?

Currently, residents are given writing and reading materials, radios, and other activities to facilitate their engagement in positive and constructive activities. Residents are being encouraged to write to their families and may do so as much as they like.

What steps are being taken to reduce the population at Bon Air JCC?

- We are reviewing all cases in direct care for possible release.
- We are working to release residents while always keeping public safety in mind.
- We look at the individual circumstances of each resident before making the decision for early release such as positive behavior, treatment needs, and risk to public safety.

What mental health services are being provided during this health crisis?

- Treatment programs have been modified in an effort to address this public health emergency.
- Mental health providers are on-site and provide services every weekday.
- Mental health status checks are conducted daily for each youth who is considered to have significantly high-risk mental health needs and for those who are assessed as vulnerable due to mental health challenges.
- During nights and weekends, there is an on-call Behavioral Services Unit clinician providing emergency mental health care as needed.
- If parents, guardians, or natural supports are aware of youth anxiety or fear, we ask that they contact the assigned JCC counselor or community coordinator so we can provide appropriate support.

How is DJJ preventing COVID-19 from being introduced into Bon Air JCC?

DJJ has had to make difficult decisions during this new experience. We are doing our best to ensure the safety of our residents and staff in three main ways:

Social Distancing:

- Canceled visitations until further notice.
- No new youth admitted to Bon Air JCC through April 1 (DJJ will reassess leading up to April 1).

Screening:

- Everyone is screened in the lobby before entering the facility.
- Anyone who fails the screening may not enter.
- Residents are screened regularly.

Hygiene and Cleaning:

- Everyone entering the building must wash and sanitize their hands in the lobby.
- Staff are teaching residents proper hand-washing techniques.
- Residents and staff are washing hands frequently.
- Currently undergoing campus deep clean and increased daily cleaning efforts.

How is social distancing accomplished in housing units at Bon Air JCC?

As we learn more about COVID-19 and receive new guidance from health officials, we consistently adapt our practices to meet those guidelines. These are the steps we have taken so far:

Waking Hours:

- Housing units do not intermingle with other housing units at any time.
- We have suspended large group activities or meetings for staff and residents.
- Residents are coming out of their rooms in rotations of smaller groups. Where possible, groups rotate multiple times a day and allow residents to be out of their rooms for as much time as possible.
- The residents who are not in the common area are allowed to sit in the doorway of their rooms and talk with other residents or relax in their rooms with the door unlocked and open.
- During unit activities, unit staff work to ensure a minimum safe distance between residents at all times (i.e., leaving seats between residents while seated at tables, standing apart during other group activities, etc.).

Sleeping Hours:

- Many residents have their own rooms.
- Of the few shared rooms, many are designed for four (4) or more residents, leaving ample room for distancing.
- No more than two residents share a room at any time with the exception of dormitory style areas.
- Residents who share rooms are sleeping head to toe, and double bunking is being eliminated when possible.

What is DJJ's plan if a resident or staff member becomes infected with COVID-19?

DJJ is following guidelines from the CDC, Virginia Department of Health, and our medical professionals on staff, and we have determined that:

Staff:

- Will be treated by their medical provider.
- Will not be allowed to come back to work until a doctor approves.

Residents:

- Will be taken to the Central Infirmary or alternate medical unit on campus.
- Will continue to be cared for by our Chief Physician and other licensed medical staff.
- Will be transported to emergency care or hospital facilities if necessary.

Is DJJ talking to parents and looking at medical records to see which residents have medical conditions that put them at higher risk?

DJJ's medical staff know each resident's medical history and current conditions. Staff are keeping in mind all medical information as we work through the pandemic.

Are there daily recreational opportunities for residents? Are sports such as basketball safe?

We consistently seek guidance from the CDC, Virginia Department of Health (VDH), our Chief Physician, and other licensed medical staff. Here is what we have learned from them so far:

- Currently, youth are encouraged to participate in as much outdoor activity as possible.
- There is no extra risk when residents participate with members of their housing unit.
- Although VDH still supports that there is no additional risk when residents interact with others in their housing unit, contact sports have been restricted at this time out of an abundance of caution.
- We will continue to explore other opportunities for physical exercise.

What are the educational plans for the residents at Bon Air?

Governor Ralph Northam initially closed schools for a two-week period, beginning March 13, 2020, but that order changed to closure for the remainder of the school year. All schools across the state began planning for potential school closings well in advance, and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) provided guidance on ways to address continued education. Additionally, the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests have been cancelled for this year.

Distance Learning:

- Core classes (English, Math, Science, etc.) are being conducted on computers through the Edgenuity online learning platform.
- Effective May 7, 2020 three residential units were equipped with laptops for online learning.
- By May 14, 2020 all units will be online and equipped with laptops.
- Teachers and students will be able to communicate through a chat function on the program.
- Students will be able to complete the courses they were enrolled in at the time of school closure.
- Student work will be graded, and credit for completed courses will be updated on their transcripts.
- Mini-libraries are being set up in each unit with a variety of books including fiction, non-fiction, college prep, and post-secondary prep.

Learning Packets:

- Initial learning packets designed to keep students engaged in structured learning were created by teachers at the Yvonne B Miller School and given to unit staff.
- Currently, learning packets are being used for elective courses, Career and Tech Ed courses, Post-Secondary courses, and for students with disabilities.
- Packets will be distributed and collected weekly.
- Teachers will review packets and provide feedback and grades each week.
- Students will be granted course credit when all requirements have been completed.

2020 Seniors:

- Seniors on target to graduate in 2020 will have the opportunity to complete coursework and credits.
- VDOE, State Board of Education, and the General Assembly have waived certain graduation requirements for this group of students including final verified credits through SOL testing.

How do I communicate with my child?

DJJ will make every effort for family members to have continued contact with residents during this time. Please contact your youth's juvenile correctional counselor to discuss the below options for contacting your youth:

Phone:

- To assist phone accessibility, more staff on the unit is now able to facilitate monitored phone calls.
- Residents have unlimited Global Tel-Link (GTL) calls per week regardless of phase level.
- Residents receive two free GTL calls each week.

Video:

- In some scenarios, video conferencing sessions can be facilitated through the Parole/Probation Officer (PO) using VIA 3.
- Video visitation options include FaceTime and Google Meets based on accessibility.
- Sessions must be pre-scheduled through your child's PO, Counselor, or Community Coordinator.

Letters:

- We are encouraging residents to write more letters during this time.
- You may also write letters to your child.
- Please continue to adhere to our policies regarding resident mail.

What resources can I use to become more informed about COVID-19?

The Virginia Department of Health

- VDH is the best resource for your questions.
- It is constantly updated with new information.
- Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

- Visit <http://www.djj.virginia.gov/pages/about-djj/covid.htm>