



## Montgomery County Juvenile Court Detention Services

March 24, 2020

To all Detention Services employees, providers, and the community and families we serve,

The Court has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Detention Services is committed to keeping you safe by abiding by recommendations and orders related to this health crisis.

Detention Services has implemented best practices and safety standards in accordance with the Governor's Stay at Home order in addition to requirements set forth by Ohio's Department of Youth Services (ODYS). Below, please see a list of our efforts related to COVID-19 as of Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> to be in effect until further notice:

- The majority of Detention Services staff members are essential employees as they provide daily supervision and meet the mandated needs of the youth we serve. To that end all employees have received the COVID-19 Public Health Advisory document which is also posted throughout the facility. This document stresses the importance of social distancing, hand washing and provides essential facts concerning the COVID-19 virus.
- All employees, essential visitors and mission critical personnel entering the facility are screened on a daily basis prior to their entry into secure Detention. Screening consists of the following questions in addition to a temperature check: (1) Do you have any symptoms of respiratory infection (fever, cough, or shortness of breath)? (2) Have you traveled outside of the United States to a country designated as a Level 3 Travel Health Notice within the past 14 days **OR** been exposed to someone with **confirmed** COVID-19 (affected country information provided). A yes answer to any of these questions restricts entrance into the facility. Follow-up will be provided by Detention Services Administrative Staff as soon as possible.
- Each person entering the facility submits to a temperature check. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater will not be permitted access.
- To limit the possibility of continued transmission, only assigned Probation Officers, Child Welfare Care Workers, Attorneys and mission critical staff/contracted employees are allowed access into secure side Detention.
- Education services are still being conducted for all youth housed in Detention Services.
- All youth receive regular temperature checks and COVID-19 screenings to limit transmission when possible. Youth have constant access to medical services when requested or symptoms arise.
- All youth/family visitation has been suspended. In an effort to maintain communication between youth and their family, the facility will be more liberal with the telephone usage policy in addition to exploring alternatives such as Skype or FaceTime, when possible.
- Detention Services' youth continue to receive essential mental health triage and therapy provided by South Community's in-house Caring for Kids (CFK) staff. They are utilizing the six (6) foot social distancing protocol during their interactions.
- Non-essential staff have been authorized to work from home when possible, accessing the Court systems remotely.
- Detention Services is making every attempt to discharge youth who may be safely maintained in the community through bi-weekly Population Control Meetings.

I thank you for your support, compliance, and understanding. Please feel free to contact a member of our staff at (937) 496-7324 with any questions you may have at this time.

Bruce Graham, Detention Services Director