



Bon Air JCC COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

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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.

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How is DJJ protecting youth?

Quarantines & Isolation

- Units are operated under three different COVID Zones
 - Green Zone: no COVID exposure in the last 14 days, no split groups or additional PPE needed.
 - Yellow Zone: COVID exposure in the last 14 days; unvaccinated residents split into small, rotating groups; masks required at all times.
 - Red Zone: COVID positive youth; location is under quarantine, increased PPE usage with KN95 masks.

COVID-19 Testing

- We conduct screenings and do temperature checks of the residents regularly, 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 level II masks for their personal use.
- All staff have access to level II masks and are required to wear a mask inside the facility.

- All staff working in the units where youth test positive are provided appropriate PPE.

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.
- A hand sanitizing station is maintained in the front lobby, and all staff are expected to maintain good hand hygiene.

How is DJJ communicating with parents or guardians?

Communicating COVID-19 Testing Information

- If a resident receives a positive result from a COVID-19 test, medical or designed staff 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.
- Parents are also notified at least weekly whenever there is a positive staff or resident case at BAJCC.

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 regularly, utilizing a “no touch” thermometer.
- Any youth with a temperature of 99 F or higher is tested for COVID-19.
- Any youth who has been exposed to a positive case 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?

Due to the decrease in cases at Bon Air and the increase in mitigating factors, residents rarely have to quarantine or isolate for an extended time. When a quarantine is necessary, materials to facilitate constructive activities are available (e.g., paper, writing utensils, radios, books, etc.). Residents are being encouraged to write to their families and may do so as much as they like. School is also in session for all residents. School attendance is only prohibited for COVID positive residents and unvaccinated residents with a recent exposure. Unvaccinated residents with a recent exposure and COVID positive youth, as appropriate, will receive educational services on the unit.

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

- Treatment programs returned to normal delivery in June of 2020.
- 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:

- Residents and staff maintain social distancing as much as possible whenever in groups.
- Visitation and other events are structured in a way to allow for maximum social distancing.

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:

- Hand sanitizing stations are maintained in common areas, and all staff, residents, and visitors are expected to maintain good hand hygiene.
- Residents and staff are washing hands frequently.
- Increased daily cleaning practices are a part of normal operations.
- An environmental services department was established in 2021 to assist in maintaining a clean, sanitized living environment.

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:

- When units are on yellow zone status, unvaccinated 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.
- 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:

- Currently, all residents are assigned to their own rooms.

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 isolation 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 have access to each resident's medical history and current conditions.

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. In accordance with their guidance, residents have returned to normal recreational activities.

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

Schools have returned to normal operations. Students who have been exposed to COVID and are NOT vaccinated receive education in their housing units until they are medically cleared to return to school. Similarly, students who test positive for COVID will receive educational services wherever they are being medically isolated, as appropriate. They will return to school when medically cleared.

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 contacting your resident by phone, video, or letter.

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>