Ohio | Department of Youth Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Ryan Gies, Director

DATE: May 4, 2020

TO: Family Members/Guardians

FROM: Ryan Gies, Director
Julie Walburn, Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Pre-Release Procedures

We know that you are concerned about the health and safety of your youth in our facilities during this challenging time, so we want to share with you some changes that we are making to our release process while COVID-19 is ongoing.

For releases scheduled for May 11th and after, all youth will be tested for COVID-19 one week before their release date. Regardless of whether those tests come back positive or negative, we will be isolating or quarantining the youth for seven days prior to their release.

Additionally:

- COVID-19 negative youth will be released in accordance with their POA.
- For COVID-19 positive youth who *are not* aging out of the system, we will hold them in isolation or quarantine until they are medically cleared for release, even if that is past their POA.
- For COVID-19 positive youth who *are* aging out of the system or who are released by the courts, we will be working with local public health departments to ensure that the youth is issued a quarantine order prior to release. We will also be working with you and your youth to educate you on the youth's condition, how to access needed care, and efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. Parole will also help your youth make follow-up medical appointments as needed.

All youth will be given appropriate PPE upon their release, and parole staff will attempt to verify that the youth's placement is COVID-19 free. If the placement informs DYS that the placement is COVID-19 positive, then alternate placement will be considered.

As a reminder, if you have additional questions or concerns, please email communications@dys.ohio.gov or call 614-466-8954 and leave a message. We will respond to you as soon as possible.

We will continue to ensure that we share information with you as we know it.