Ohio | Department of Youth Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Ryan Gies, Director

DATE: July 20, 2020

TO: Family Members/Guardians

FROM: Ryan Gies, Director
Julie Walburn, Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Positive COVID-19 Case – Circleville JCF

Throughout our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have remained committed to keeping you informed of developments that impact your youth. In that vein, today the Ohio Department of Health has confirmed that a staff member at Circleville JCF has tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member was tested for COVID on July 15 and received his/her results back today. The individual has not been in the facility since prior to that date. We have begun contact tracing and are following all recommended procedures and protocols from ODH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Much of our operations had already been limited, including prohibiting any unnecessary individuals from entering the facility and implementing restrictions on youth intermingling between units. Both youth and staff have been provided with face masks and are required to wear them. Moving forward, we will adjust our operations in accordance with facility operational plans that guide additional response efforts.

Additionally, please note that in-person visitation will be suspended at Circleville until further notice. We will inform you when we are able to safely reopen in-person visitation at all three of our facilities.

Please know that the health and safety of our youth and staff is paramount in our response to this situation. We are committed to keeping you informed. If you have 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.

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