



State of Utah

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ANN SILVERBERG WILLIAMSON
Executive Director

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES

BRETT M. PETERSON
Director

NATE WINTERS
Deputy Director

April 6, 2020

Dear Valued Family Members,

The health and safety of your child in our care is the top priority of Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) and the Department of Human Services. I am happy to report at this time, **we have no confirmed or suspected cases of the coronavirus at JJS facilities.**

This has been a difficult few weeks, and I want you to know how valued your child is. At JJS, we know the anxiety it causes to not be able to visit in person. Let me be clear that we could not do this without you and your support.

The Governor has issued a [“Stay Safe, Stay Home” directive](#), and there are also “shelter in place” standards in several counties. You are an integral part of the safety and well-being of your child and are key to making sure they stay connected.

Here’s what we are doing statewide:

- Helping you contact your child through video/telephone
- Keeping your child aware of the coronavirus situation
- Sanitizing the facility to ensure they remain safe and healthy
- Taking temperature readings and screening of **all people who enter our facilities**
- Maintaining physical distancing with our youth and staff

If your child, **or any child or staff member in one of our facilities, becomes sick** we will provide immediate care. If they have symptoms of coronavirus, **we will get them tested and medically isolate them** so they don’t come in contact with others. If this happens, we will contact you right away.

It is understandable to experience anxiety and uncertainty while your child is in our care. So I want to personally assure you that my staff and I treat every child in our care the same way we would want our own child to be treated. Their well-being and health is key to their success, and I ask for your continued patience and generosity as we work to ensure our responses are safe and well balanced.

To stay up-to-date with the most current information about coronavirus, please visit coronavirus.utah.gov or call 800-456-7707. You can also visit our website at jjs.utah.gov.

Thank you for your understanding of our preparation and actions to keep your child safe.

Be well,

Brett M. Peterson
Director of Juvenile Justice Services
Utah Department of Human Services