



# JUVENILE COURT HEALTH SERVICES (JCHS) YOUTH HOUSING GUIDANCE RELATED TO COVID-19

## A. Definitions:

1. **Quarantine** refers to the practice of separating individuals from the general youth population for monitoring of symptom development or while awaiting COVID-19 test results. It applies to youth who:
  - a. Have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case (previously also included presumed COVID-19 cases).
  - b. Are newly admitted to a Hall and present without symptoms of infection.
2. **Medical Isolation** refers to confining a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case (ideally to a single room with solid walls and a solid door that closes), to prevent contact with others and to reduce the risk of transmission. Medical isolation ends when the individual meets pre-established clinical and/or testing criteria for release from isolation, in consultation with clinical providers and/or public health officials.
3. **Close contact** refers to a person who was exposed to a person with a positive diagnostic (viral) COVID-19 test while they were infectious.
  - a. An individual who was within 6 feet of the index case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or
  - b. An individual who had unprotected contact with the index cases body fluids and/or secretions, for example, being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without using appropriate protective equipment.

## B. THREE TYPES OF COVID-19 RELATED HOUSING UNITS FOR YOUTH IN HALLS

### 1. **Medical Housing Unit / Medical Observation Unit (MHU / MOU)**

#### BJNJH Only

- All new admissions will continue to be taken to the MHU setting for nursing admission intakes and collection of N/P swab specimen for COVID-19 infection.
- If all MHU rooms are occupied, new admission to be housed in designated quarantine unit unless presenting with symptoms.

#### BJNJH and CJH

- In-house youths with flu-like symptoms for a nursing and medical evaluation to determine which housing unit is most clinically appropriate during their period of illness.
- Youths transferred from camps with flu-like symptoms.
- Youths who would normally be admitted to the MHU (e.g. post-op surgical youth).

### 2. **Quarantine/Monitoring Unit** – Designated unit for youth who:

- Is a new admission without any fever or symptoms (flu-like or other acute medical condition).
- Was exposed to a positive COVID-19 employee, or
- Was exposed to a positive COVID-19 youth, or

### 3. **Medical Isolation Unit** – Designated unit for youth who:

- Is a new admission presenting with fever or flu-like symptoms.
- Has a positive COVID-19 test result.
- Youth with symptoms **and** under evaluation for COVID-19 infection.

## C. WORKFLOW - NEWLY ADMITTED YOUTH

As of 5/4/2020, all newly admitted youth are tested for COVID-19 at the time of the nursing admission intake.



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## 1. Probation Conducts its Initial COVID-19 Screening Upon Admission

- Probation gives youth a surgical mask to wear.
- If youth presents with signs of illness or other medical condition, Probation calls nursing unit for nurse to conduct a pre-assessment to determine whether youth can be admitted to the hall or needs a higher level of medical care and clearance for booking.
- Probation completes their admission process.
- Probation notifies nursing via PEMRS entry that youth is ready for nursing intake.

## 2. Nursing Admission/Intake Process

### BJNJH

- Nurse conducts Admission/Intake in MHU.
  - ❖ Specimen for COVID-19 is collected by nurse or physician and sent to designated Lab.

### CJH

- Nurse conducts Admission/Intake in Boys' Receiving, Unit W, or Unit XY
  - ❖ The Admission location is dependent on the following factors
    - a. Female youth: Unit XY
    - b. Male youth: Boys' Receiving (BR); If BR unable to accommodate secondary to number of youths admitted, then youth without symptoms of illness to be housed in Unit W and nursing will conduct admission in Unit W.
  - ❖ Specimen for COVID-19 is collected by nurse or physician and sent to designated Lab.

## D. CRITERIA FOR COVID-19 HOUSING UNIT PLACEMENT AND LENGTH OF STAY

### 1. Medical Isolation Unit

- If youth has a fever ( $\geq 100.0^{\circ}$  F /  $38^{\circ}$  C) and/or has any flu-like symptoms, specifically cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea.
- The length of stay for a youth in isolation will primarily be guided by a non-test-based or symptomatic strategy taking into consideration the clinical picture.

### If the youth has a Positive COVID-19 test

- Youth to remain in **Medical Isolation Unit**
- **JCHS Medical Director and Nursing Director are to be notified about any positive test results.**
- If in a quarantine unit prior to receiving test results,
  - ❖ Youth is to be placed in the **Medical Isolation Unit**
  - ❖ The date **specimen obtained** is the reference point to begin the 10-day medical isolation.
- May be released to a regular residential unit when:
  - ❖ At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (or test **specimen obtained** if youth had been without symptoms) **AND**
  - ❖ At least **24 hours** have passed since recovery: defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - ❖ Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
  - ❖ Youth **may only be released** from medical isolation when cleared and an order written by physician.

### If the youth has a Negative COVID-19 test

- Release to a regular unit will be based on a clinical evaluation of the youth.
- If there is a low suspicion the youth may have COVID-19 or **there is a clear alternate diagnosis found**, they may be released to a regular residential unit with a negative test presuming they have improvement of their symptoms and free of fever for 24 hours.



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## YOUTH HOUSING GUIDANCE RELATED TO COVID-19

- If there is a high degree of suspicion of COVID-19, there is the option to repeat another COVID-19 test (If more than 24 hours since the last test). If clinically indicated, an additional testing panel for other viruses may be included.
  - ❖ As of 10/31/2020, the Respiratory Virus panel can be ordered without approval needed by the Public Health Lab.
- If there is a negative viral test result (or a diagnostic viral test was not performed) but the suspicion of COVID-19 remains high, the youth will continue to isolate as a presumptive case and will be discontinued from isolation after at least 10 days have passed since symptoms began, after at least 24 hours fever-free without medications to reduce fevers, **AND** improved symptoms.
- Youth **may only be released** from medical isolation when an order is written by a physician.

### 2. Quarantine / Monitoring Unit

- All newly admitted youth, without signs of illness, are to be housed in the Quarantine/Monitoring Unit until test results are received.
  - ❖ If test result is **positive**, youth is to be moved to the Medical Isolation Unit
  - ❖ If test result is **negative**, youth may be released to a regular residential unit.
    - a. Nursing to initiate an “Activity Gram” in PEMRS and provide a copy to Probation so that youth may be released from quarantine and moved to regular unit.
    - b. These asymptomatic youths do not require an order by a physician to be released.
- Any youth who **does not have** a fever or symptoms, but prior to admission had exposure to a known COVID-19 patient.
  - ❖ If test result is **positive**, youth is to be moved to the Medical Isolation Unit.
  - ❖ If test result is **negative**, youth may be released to a regular residential unit if has remained symptom free for 14 days from the last day of exposure to the positive COVID-19 patient.

## E. YOUTH IN-HOUSE WHO DEVELOP SYMPTOMS OF FLU-LIKE ILLNESS

### 1. Youth Presenting with Complaint of Possible COVID-19 Symptoms

- Ensure that youth has a mask to wear before moving
- Probation to notify nursing and youth brought to the MHU/MOU for an evaluation.
- An evaluation is performed by nursing/medical staff
- Specimen for COVID-19 is collected and sent to designated Lab.

### 2. Evaluation Findings: Possible COVID-19 Infection

- Youth is admitted to the **Medical Isolation Unit**
- The **entire residential unit** does not need to be in quarantine unless they were exposed to a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case.
  - ❖ If a unit is under quarantine, twice a day, nursing will perform a temperature and symptom check on each youth who were exposed.

### 3. Length of Unit Quarantine Dependent on Identified Youth’s COVID-19 Test Result

- If the identified youth has a **positive** COVID-19 test result:
  - ❖ Youth remains in the Medical Isolation Unit
  - ❖ Process is the same as described in *Paragraph D*.
  - ❖ Youth’s original unit may be removed from quarantine after **14 days**.

## F. EXPOSURE TO A COVID-19 POSITIVE EMPLOYEE

- If youths in a residential unit were exposed to a COVID-19 positive employee:
  - ❖ All youths in the identified unit(s) will be quarantined for **14 days**.
  - ❖ All youths will be monitored twice a day for fever and/or symptoms.



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## **G. QUARANTINE AND MEDICAL ISOLATION UNITS DESIGNATIONS**

- Designation of these units are subject to change based on population, Probation staffing, and/or environmental condition of unit.
  - ❖ Unless the situation is emergent or urgent, if Probation finds that it becomes necessary for the designated units to be changed, the proposed changes will be discussed with JCHS Executive Team and the Infection Prevention Team prior to implementation.
    - a. In emergent or urgent situations, Probation will notify JCHS of the changes as soon as possible.

## **H. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **1. Re-testing of previously positive youths**

- If an asymptomatic youth had a positive COVID-19 test result in the past, they will not need to be tested again if it has been **less than 90 days** from the positive test date.
- However, if the youth is symptomatic and a COVID-19 infection is suspected, please discuss the management with the Medical Director and/or Infection Preventionist.

### **2. Testing of youth prior to camp admission, placement transfer, or DJJ facility**

- Generally, if an asymptomatic youth will be moving to a new camp, placement or DJJ, a repeat COVID-19 test will have to be performed if it has been **more than 7 days** since the last COVID-19 test.
- If the youth is symptomatic, the youth may be retested and movement is on hold until the clinical situation is evaluated and resolved.

#### Revision history:

1. 6/1/20 – Revised discontinuation from Medical Isolation unit (Paragraph D, Section 1)
2. 11/05/2020 – Revised definition of quarantine to include only laboratory-confirmed positive case exposure; discontinuation of Isolation order; added Special Circumstances section



Juvenile Court Health Services  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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DESCRIPTION	MANAGEMENT	CJH		BJNJH	
		BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS
<b>ADMISSION UNITS</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All newly admitted youth are tested for COVID-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BJNJH – Youth are taken to MHU for admission</li> <li>CJH – Youth are admitted in one of 3 locations</li> </ul>	BR, Unit W	Unit XY	MHU	MHU
<b>MEDICAL HOUSING UNIT (MHU/MOU)</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“In-house” youth with complaints of influenza-like illness</li> <li>Transferred camp youth with flu-like symptoms</li> <li>Youth who would normally be admitted to the MHU (e.g., surgical post-op)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-house and camp youth with flu-like symptoms for nurse and physician evaluation to determine the appropriate COVID-19 designated unit.</li> <li>Youth with Non-COVID-19 related medical issues will be handled in the regular manner.</li> </ul>	MHU	MHU	MHU	MHU
<b>QUARANTINE UNIT</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly admitted youth awaiting test results.</li> <li>Exposed to a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 person <b>AND IS Afebrile and Asymptomatic</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New youth without symptoms – until test results received.</li> <li>14-day quarantine</li> <li>Temp and symptom check twice a day</li> </ul>	Unit W 1 & 2	Unit XQ	Unit P1	MHU - West Side
<b>MEDICAL ISOLATION UNIT</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptomatic youth (with or without fever)</li> <li><b>All</b> youth with <b>positive</b> COVID-19 test result</li> <li><b>Positive</b> COVID-19 test results</li> <li><b>Negative</b> COVID-19 test results but clinical suspicion of COVID-19 in a symptomatic youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10-day isolation minimum and until symptoms improve</li> <li>Temp and symptom check twice a day</li> <li><b>May only be released</b> from medical isolation when cleared by physician and order written.</li> <li>If youth is from “in-house” population, original residential unit placed in quarantine for 14 days.</li> <li>If youth is from “in-house” population, original residential unit placed in quarantine for 10 days.</li> </ul>	Girls’ Care	Unit YP	Unit P2	Unit Q

**Symptomatic – WITH** cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills or body aches  
**Asymptomatic – NO** cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills or body aches