Guidance for Facilities, Private Providers
COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
March 20, 2020

The following guidance is based on the most current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) recommendations for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. This guidance is not intended to address every potential scenario that may arise as this event evolves.

Guidance for visitation to Wilder Youth Development Center and all residential facilities operated by private providers.

- All visitor and volunteer access to residential facilities is suspended through at least March 31, 2020 – will determine at that time whether the suspension needs to be extended.
- Attorneys representing the youth and vendors delivering supplies are exempt from this suspension.
- Following guidance from the CDC, DCS strongly urges private providers who operate residential treatment facilities to conduct COVID-19 symptom and temperature checks on all employees and other essential personnel prior to entry into their facilities. Per CDC guidelines, those running a temperature of 100.4 or higher should not be permitted to enter the facilities. This practice is currently underway at Wilder Youth Development Center, which is operated by the department.
- Suspension of this visitation applies to facilities that serve both delinquent and dependent and neglected youth.
- DCS is urging all providers to follow CDC guidelines regarding limiting social interactions that could potentially expose custodial youth to COVID-19.

Guidance for DCS Staff employees making face-to-face visits with youth in provider facilities.

- DCS will utilize videoconferencing to meet visitation requirements unless there are safety concerns, no video capability, or other circumstances that warrant a face to face.
- DCS staff may make face to face facility visits per policy utilizing CDC and TDH guidelines and any provider guidelines when videoconferencing with the child/youth is contraindicated.

Guidance regarding week-end passes

- For the period between the issuance of this document and March 31, 2020, no passes will be granted. DCS staff will have responsibility for advising families of the temporary restriction.

Guidance regarding court appearances

- From the date of this document through the end of March 31, 2020, if the child/youth has a pending court date, providers should check with the case manager to ensure that the court date has not been re-scheduled.
Guidance on reporting

- Providers will report to the DCS Executive Director of Network Development, Camille Legins (camille.legins@tn.gov) if any custodial child is exposed to, exhibits symptoms of, or is being tested for COVID-19.