

**Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division
Juvenile Services - Steps Taken in Response to COVID-19
Update
April 2, 2020**

Numbers:

Detention Center Total Population:

4/2/20:

Bridgeport	34
Hartford	23

3/2/20:

Bridgeport	43
Hartford	43

Detention Center Pretrial Population:

Bridgeport	17
Hartford	6

Number of juveniles tested for COVID-19:

Bridgeport	1 tested, 0 positive
Hartford	8 tested – 3 positive, 1 negative, 4 pending

Number of staff tested for COVID-19:

Bridgeport	0 reported tested
Hartford	3 positive, 3 negative tests reported

Measures instituted in the Juvenile Detention Centers to address COVID-19:

CSSD is taking steps every day to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a developing situation that is being addressed on multiple fronts. Some highlights of the actions CSSD has taken follow:

1. Procedures to prevent spread put in place based on the advice from the center's residential services medical director in consultation with the CT Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. Beginning 3/13/20, entrance to the detention centers was limited to staff and medical and mental health contractors who work at the centers.
3. As the Bridgeport and Hartford Public Schools closed, the education program was modified by the provider to be consistent with the school districts. The youth are receiving educational

packets to complete on a daily basis. The work is collected by the education provider and credit will be assigned as appropriate.

4. Enhanced sanitary cleaning has been instituted in the Detention Centers and the courts, with particular attention to touch points. Maintenance staff are working overtime to conduct daily both regular and additional disinfecting of the detention centers.
5. The youth in the detention centers are being monitored very closely for any and all symptomatic signs of the virus and are receiving high quality healthcare by both medical and mental health practitioners.
6. Any juvenile displaying symptoms is isolated on the designated isolation unit, where they are closely monitored and attended to by medical staff under the direction of the Medical Director.
7. Only one unit has experienced infection; that unit has been quarantined.
8. Employees have been directed to stay home if they feel sick.
9. Staff are being screened (asked to answer the COVID-19 screening questions) before entering the Centers. Medical assistants are being brought on board to take each employee's temperature before they enter the Center. Employees are not allowed to enter the Centers if they have any symptoms and/or a fever.
10. The following tips have been disseminated to employees, who are encouraging the juveniles to do the same:
11. Please continue to practice the sanitation and precautionary measures recommended by health experts, and encourage the youth to do the same:
 - a. Stop handshaking and practice keeping a distance from others (6 feet apart whenever possible);
 - b. Regularly wash hands and don't touch the face;
 - c. Cover the mouth when coughing or sneezing; and
 - d. Frequently disinfect high touch points (e.g., door handles, phones, handrails). Maintenance staff continue to provide extra disinfecting of touchpoints and other areas throughout the day.
12. The following procedures have been put in place for Admissions and Releases:

For Admissions:

 - a. Each juvenile is screened for COVID-19.
 - b. For juveniles answering "yes" to any question on the screen, the COVID-19 isolation protocol is followed.
 - c. All new admissions are quarantined for 14 days consistent with DPH guidelines.

For Releases:

- a. The nurse does a symptom check and temp check the evening before and the morning of a scheduled release.
 - b. Medical staff communicates with the receiving facility about any quarantine or other issues on the juvenile's unit, if applicable.
 - c. No symptomatic juveniles are released to another congregate care setting.
 - d. For all juveniles released to parents/guardians, medical staff is reviewing the situation at the facility and educating them about how to check for symptoms and information resources.
13. Due to positive tests, admissions to the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center were suspended indefinitely effective 3/31/20.

Steps Taken to Reduce Detention Center population:

1. Juvenile Probation and Residential Services management, in coordination with DCF as needed, is closely examining each juvenile in the Detention Centers to identify those who can be safely released without a risk to public safety.
2. An individualized release plan for each of these juveniles is being developed and presented to the court at the weekly Detention Review hearings, or sooner if the placement is imminent.
3. All new admissions to the Detention Centers (juveniles brought to the Centers by the police with a signed court order) are being strictly monitored and screened to ensure that only those juveniles whose level of risk to public safety cannot be managed in the community are admitted.