

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Visitation at Juvenile Detention Centers

Recent Update:

10/31/20: Added links to quarantine and isolation pages and entry screening guidance.

Juvenile detention facilities have introduced community activities safely without a notable increase in new COVID-19 infections. Public Health will permit visitations by friends, families, legal representatives and service providers to resume if the infection control practices noted in this document are in place. However, COVID-19 disease transmission trends will be closely monitored, and visitation guidelines are subject to change if there is evidence of new, or significant facility outbreak (particularly one that may be linked to a visitor); or increased community transmission trends.

A. POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOUTH AND STAFF HEALTH

- All entering visitors should be [screened](#) for a fever and symptoms of COVID-19 on admission to the facility using the same criteria as for staff.
- Anyone with a fever (100.4 F or 37.8 C) or symptoms (chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) should not be permitted to enter the facility at any time.
- All visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings for the entire duration of their visit and to keep at least 6 feet of distance from staff and youth whenever feasible.
- Staff and youth are required to wear cloth face coverings during visits.
- Youth in medical isolation or quarantine are not permitted to receive in-person visits until they complete their [quarantine](#) or [isolation](#) protocol. Alternative methods of treatment provision such as videoconferencing should be offered to youth in isolation or quarantine whenever possible. If an in-person visit cannot be avoided the visitor or service provider must maintain 6 feet of distance from the individual in isolation or quarantine and wear a surgical mask at all times.

B. MEASURES TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained at all times. This necessitates prohibiting any form of physical contact.
- Juvenile detention facilities should provide visitors with instructions and guidelines prior to the date of visitation.
- The number of visitors should be limited to no more than 2 visitors from the same household or two visitors for essential service; otherwise only 1 visitor should be allowed at a time.
- Visitation areas should be outdoors only.
- One or more staff should be designated to ensure adherence to social distancing and infection control standards.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Visitation at Juvenile Detention Centers

C. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Hand hygiene should be performed before and after the visit at minimum.
- Environmental cleaning should be performed on any surfaces touched by youth or staff after each individual or group treatment session. Use an EPA approved disinfectant.

D. MEASURES TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PUBLIC

- Signage at each entrance should be used to inform visitors to:
 - Stay home if they are ill or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or are under orders to be under quarantine or isolation.
 - Maintain physical distancing of six feet from others and not to engage in any physical contact.
 - Wash their hands often or use sanitizer upon entry into the facility.
 - Wear a face covering at all times while at the facility.