

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Provision of Behavioral Health Services at Juvenile Detention

Recent Update:

11/3/20: Added links to quarantine and isolation pages and entry screening guidance.

Behavioral health services – including mental health, substance use disorder treatment and behavioral therapy are essential clinical care for youth. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) strongly encourages facilities to continue to provide these critical services either in-person or virtually if appropriate and feasible. Provision of in-person behavioral health services are subject to:

- [Screening](#) of behavioral health staff prior to treatment sessions; and
- Contact investigation in the event that a facility outbreak is linked to a behavioral health provider(s); and
- Behavioral health providers and youth receiving in-person services wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

A. POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOUTH AND STAFF HEALTH

- All entering behavioral health staff should be [screened](#) for a fever and symptoms of COVID-19 on admission to the facility using the same criteria as for other staff.
- Non-staff visitors with a fever (100.4 F or 37.8 C) or symptoms (e.g., chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) should not be permitted to enter the facility at any time.
- Staff and youth are required to wear cloth face coverings during treatment sessions or when interacting with each other.
- Youth in medical isolation or quarantine are not permitted to receive in-person treatment 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.

B. MEASURES TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained during treatment sessions at all times.
- Treatment sessions, particularly group therapeutic sessions, should be conducted outdoors whenever possible.
- Group treatment sessions should not exceed 10 persons, including staff.

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.