



Department of Youth Affairs COVID-19 Response/ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Youth in secure confinement are at an elevated risk for quick transmission if exposed to the Corona Virus. Based on what is known about the severity of the virus, the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) has taken essential actions to protect the health and safety of both youth and staff within the Youth Correctional Facility (YCF).

This FAQ provides the best answers to the most commonly asked questions about DYA and juveniles in custody during this pandemic.

1. Is the Department of Youth Affairs open?

Answer: Yes, DYA operates the only Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) on island which runs 24 hours - 7 days a week to provide supervision and care to youth taken into custody by the Guam Police Department or remanded by court order. DYA's Community Resource Centers in Dededo, Mangilao and Agat have been closed due to the Public Health Emergency Declaration since March 16, 2020.

2. How are you protecting my child from the virus?

Answer: DYA has instituted numerous measures to ensure the safety of both your child and staff to include the following: education on the virus; limiting transmission by prohibiting visitors who are not essential for medical care or daily living, except in exigent circumstances; verbal screening and temperature check protocols; enhanced cleaning and disinfecting and hygiene practices; use of personal protective equipment; isolation of new admissions; use of social distancing practices as much as possible in a congregate setting; designation of a quarantine area for infectious control; special considerations for persons at higher risk; and increased health care capacity through recruitment of a full time nurse.

3. Can I visit my child? Can I visit my client?

Answer: Yes, however since the Public Health Emergency Declaration on March 16, 2020, visitation has been limited to phone calls and mail. In case of an emergency please contact 735-5022. When restrictions are lifted your child's/client's social worker will contact you of any changes.

4. How can I check on my child's welfare or state of mind during this pandemic?

Answer: Your child has access to a social worker who conducts daily checks on the residents of the Youth Correctional Facility and Cottage Homes. You may call 735-5037 to inquire about how your child is adjusting and you will be notified if there are any issues with your child's behavior.

5. How will my child still attend court hearings or appointments?

Answer: DYA will arrange for transportation to all mandatory appointments or reschedule existing appointments as necessary. Most hearings are done utilizing video conferencing equipment to limit exposure and transmission of the virus.

6. Am I able to deliver toiletries to my child?

Answer: Yes, you are able to deliver toiletries or mail to your child and other allowable items which will be examined and sanitized by YCF staff. For information on allowable items please call 735-5022.

7. When will the DYA Community Resource Centers reopen?

Answer: Because of social distancing requirements, the centers will likely be closed throughout the summer of 2020; however, if restrictions are lifted earlier, a press release will be issued to notify the public of any changes.

We remain focused and hopeful that the efforts taken so far will keep our youth and staff safe and healthy. Responses to the COVID-19 virus continue to evolve as the situation progresses and more information becomes available. Any updates will be posted on our website. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns at 735-5022. *We're all in this together!*