



# Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

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Commissioner

## Memo

**To:** Facility Directors and Assistant Directors, Facility Managers, Facility Nurse Administrators

**From:** Dr. James Horne, *Medical Director*, Bureau of Health Services  
Dr. Joseph Tomassone, *Acting Associate Commissioner*, Office of Youth Programs and Services  
Robert MacGiffert, *Associate Commissioner*, Office of Facilities Management

**Date:** August 13, 2021

**Re:** Youth Intake to DJJOY Programs / Availability of Rapid Testing for COVID-19

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OCFS' ability to offer youth a rapid COVID-19 test (see *Availability of COVID-19 Rapid Tests for Facility Staff and Youth*, issued July 29, 2021) demands a modification to intake quarantine procedures. The following is updated guidance on intake and quarantine procedures for youth admitted to DJJOY-operated facilities. This guidance will also be incorporated into *Guidelines for the Use of Personal Protective Equipment / Quarantine and Isolation Protocol*, issued February 23, 2021.

### **Exceptions from Intake Quarantine**

The following youth, **if they are asymptomatic at the time of transfer**, do **not** need to be placed on intake quarantine. Facilities can admit these youth directly into program:

- *Inter-Facility Transferred Youth:* Known youth who are moved between DJJOY facilities, who are not on quarantine or medical isolation status, **and** who are asymptomatic. This includes lateral transfers or *Fenner'd* youth from facilities, so long as the sending facilities either do not have a known case of COVID-19 or the youth is not identified as a contact of a case.
- *Youth with Vaccination Protection from COVID-19 and Who Test Negative for COVID-19 Upon Arrival:* Youth who have been confirmed to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (e.g., with documentation from the medical department of a sending facility/residential program or detention center, or by a CDC vaccination card), **if** more than two weeks have passed since the date of their last completed vaccination dose; and the youth rapid tests negative for COVID-19 upon arrival to the facility.
- *Youth with Acquired Protection from COVID-19 and Who Test Negative for COVID-19 Upon Arrival:* Youth who have had a documented positive COVID-19 test within the past 90 days from the date of transfer **and** have completed a 10-day medical isolation, do not need to be COVID tested upon arrival to a DJJOY residential program.

### **New/Unknown Youth/Youth Admitted Directly from Community**

If a youth is new or unknown to DJJOY and they do not meet any of the three criteria above, during the intake process, facilities will:

- Communicate with the medical department of the sending facility, program, or detention center about the presence or absence of COVID-19 in that facility after the youth’s transfer, in the youth population overall, and on the unit where the youth was housed.
  - If a sending facility or program reports no or low incidence of COVID-19 at that facility at the time of the youth’s admission to the DJJOY-operated facility, DJJOY will recontact the sending facility program **five days** after the youth was admitted to confirm the status of COVID-19 at the sending program.
- Offer a rapid test to the youth during facility processing, while they are still in medical, according to the procedures outlined in *Availability of COVID-19 Rapid Tests for Facility Staff and Youth*. Staff should emphasize to youth the advantages taking the rapid test.
- If a new/unknown youth refuses a rapid test, they will be placed on intake quarantine.

**Chart: Rapid Test Results and Next Steps**

Rapid COVID Test Results and Next Steps	New Youth and Rapid COVID Test <b>NEGATIVE</b>	New Youth and Rapid COVID Test <b>POSITIVE</b>
Sending Facility: <b>DOES NOT Have</b> Instance of COVID-19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New youth is admitted to regular program. Medical department will screen new youth for COVID symptoms and temp twice a day for 14 days</li> <li>2. On day 5 after admission, repeat COVID rapid test. If repeat test is negative, no change to youth’s unit or status</li> <li>3. If second COVID rapid test is positive <b>or</b> if the youth develops symptoms, youth will be placed on medical isolation. The youth will be given a PCR test. The youth’s unit will be placed on quarantine</li> <li>4. If the PCR test is negative; youth goes back to unit (if no symptoms) or remains on medical isolation (if symptoms). If youth has symptoms, they may be given a flu/strep test and remain on medical isolation. The youth’s unit can go off quarantine</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New youth is placed in medical isolation, monitored for symptoms, given a PCR test</li> <li>2. If the PCR test is negative, the youth moves to regular program.</li> <li>3. If the PCR test is positive, new youth completes 10-day medical isolation before placement in regular program</li> </ol>
Sending Facility: <b>DOES Have</b> Instance of COVID-19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New youth will be placed on quarantine</li> <li>2. Youth given PCR test after 7 days to confirm initial rapid test negative result</li> <li>3. If PCR is negative, youth moves to regular program. If confirmatory PCR is positive, new youth remains on and completes medical isolation before movement to regular program</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New youth is placed in medical isolation, monitored for symptoms and given a PCR test on day 7</li> <li>2. If the PCR test is negative, the youth can move to regular program</li> <li>3. If the PCR is positive, the youth will complete a 10-day medical isolation before placement on regular facility program</li> </ol> <p><b>Reminder:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medical Isolation = 10 days</b></li> <li>• <b>Medical Quarantine = 14 days</b></li> </ul>

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