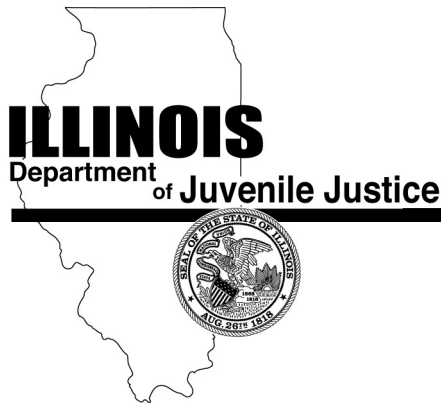




JB Pritzker
Governor

Heidi Mueller
Director

1112 South Wabash Avenue, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60605
Telephone: (312) 814-3848 / TDD: (800) 526-0844

April 29, 2020

Dear Families,

The health and safety of your children and our staff is our top priority as we work to implement the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Following the directives of Governor Pritzker, to slow the spread of the disease as much as possible and to protect the health of people in our care, we are again extending postponing of visits through May 31.

For families who must postpone their visits, the Department will work with you to make sure you are able to reschedule your visit as soon as possible after May 31 and will work to provide additional opportunities for communication such as phone calls and video visits to every extent possible.

Please know that we are committed to keeping your child safe and healthy during this National Emergency.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a call with your child at a specific time, please contact your child's Youth and Family Specialist or the Superintendent of the Illinois Youth Center where your child is staying. Please also see the Frequently Asked Questions document we have provided to help answer some of your questions about what steps IDJJ is taking to keep youth in our care safe and healthy during this unprecedented pandemic. We are also including a copy of our Special Edition Newsletter highlighting some of the generous support we have received from donors to help comfort your child and provide them some support during this very difficult time.

Proactive Steps to Stay Healthy

The 2019 novel Coronavirus is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way influenza, and other respiratory viruses spread. Because of this, individuals are encouraged to follow these common-sense practices:

- Follow Governor Pritzker's Stay-At-Home Order. Stay Home; Save Lives.
- Wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Avoid the touching of eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Cover mouth and nose with the inside of the arm or with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throw the tissue away immediately. Wash hands as soon as possible afterward.

Additional information is available from the Illinois Department of Public Health at their Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-2019) website, the COVID-19 Hotline at 1 (800) 889-3931 or by email at dph.sick@illinois.gov.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely in partnership with IDPH and IEMA in the days and weeks to come. Be assured that we will communicate immediately any updates or changes in the virus spread or our internal protocols.

Thank you for your attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Mueller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heidi Mueller
Director