Brisbane Youth Detention Centre - Information for parents and carers about novel coronavirus

We are working closely with Queensland Health to limit the effect of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on youth detention centres. Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of young people, staff and the community. Our aim is to minimise any negative impacts on them during this time.

Important update

Multiple Brisbane Youth Detention Centre staff, and family members, have tested positive for COVID-19.

As a result, BYDC has been placed in quarantine until further notice in line with Queensland Health advice.

This means:

- all visits, personal and professional, have been cancelled until further notice
- all admissions to the centre have been suspended
- BYDC is planning for handover to an alternative workforce, led by Youth Justice, made up of Queensland Corrective Services, Queensland Police Service and other government agency staff to ensure the centre is able to continue to operate (a team from Cleveland Youth Detention Centre are also assisting)
- when staff have completed their quarantine and tested negative they will return to work at the centre.

We are working closely with Queensland Health to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people, staff and the community and extensive planning had taken place to respond to this situation.

We have strategies in place to stop the spread of COVID-19, including:

- COVID-19 health checks for young people
- increased cleaning and sanitisation
- increased availability and use of hand sanitisers and protective equipment
- extra staff training on hygiene, the use of protective equipment and extra safety measures for any young person identified as high risk.

All young people and staff are being tested for COVID-19. We are working with Queensland Health on contact tracing.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their child’s caseworker if they have any concerns.

We will continue to follow health advice and restart visits when it is safe.

It is important that young people continue to connect with their families, friends, legal contacts and service providers. Staff will work with you to ensure you can stay in contact with young people.
Everyone who comes to a youth detention centre must have a health screen, including a temperature check, before they enter. This includes:

- staff
- other essential workers.

People will not be allowed to enter a youth detention centre if they have:

- returned/arrived from overseas in the past 14 days
- been to any of the declared COVID-19 hotspots in the past 14 days
- had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- a fever or symptoms of acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, runny nose or shortness of breath)
- a temperature of over 37.5 degrees (checked before entry).

Safety measures are in place to keep everyone safe.

**How COVID-19 will affect young people in BYDC**

All young people are being tested for COVID-19. All young people are also being monitored for symptoms.

We will focus on helping young people and staff maintain the best possible hygiene standards. Our youth detention centres have put extra cleaning and disinfecting procedures in place.

Young people at BYDC will not be attending the education precinct while the centre is in quarantine. They will be provided with education material from the Department of Education. Young people will participate in activities in their accommodation units. They may also engage in individual activities such as reading, playing games and listening to music.

**Health services for your child**

All young people have access to health services while they are at a youth detention centre. Young people can talk to nurses and doctors at the centre if they have concerns about their health.

Please contact Brisbane Youth Detention Centre if you need more information.