COVID-19 Alert Responses

Facility Admissions and Releases

1. What, if any, new or revised screening criteria or limits are facilities placing on who can be admitted to a detention center?

Contra Costa County: Effective Monday, March 23, all employees will be screened by nursing prior to entering the facilities, complete with temporal temperature check, prior to the start of their shift; Visitation has been temporarily suspended; All programming facilitated by external service providers has been temporarily suspended.

2. What, if any, changes have been made to how intakes are being screened and managed?

Contra Costa County: We are screening all youth upon arrival, and sending anyone who appears, or reports to be, symptomatic to local ED for further assessment and clearance. Staff have been directed not to book probation violation, unless exigent circumstances are present.

3. In regards to your long-term facilities, are you considering any changes in order to keep the average daily population of the facility down as low as possible? If so, are you considering early releases or extended furlough’s as part of the plan?

Contra Costa County: With academic services temporarily suspended we are able expedite youth’s CBT programming requirements in the post-dispo and commitment programs, upon completion youth will be released. In the event that we need to close our ranch program, youth who are near program completion will be released on electronic monitoring, and others will be returned to the juvenile hall and placed into a post-dispo/commitment programming unit.
OBJECTIVES:
• To provide guidance on the prevention and management of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) at the Rhode Island Training School (RITS) that prioritizes maintaining the health and safety of all residents and staff at the facility.

Prevention
• All residents are offered influenza vaccines at the time of admission and periodically afterwards with appropriate consent.
• All staff are encouraged to get a flu shot.
• All staff and regular vendors/contractors are directed to remain out of work if they have fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, cough as per Department of Administration guidelines.
• At this time, family members of the residents will not be allowed into the facility. This will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.
• All common areas within the facility will be cleaned on a regular basis and documented on an “Area Cleaning Checklist” form that will be submitted to each area’s Administrator at the end of each shift.
• All residents, staff, and visitors will have access to water, soap, and/or hand sanitizer and encouraged to maintain proper hand hygiene, minimize physical contact with others, and cough/sneeze into their sleeves/elbows.
• Several rooms will be identified, cleaned, and stocked with quarantine supplies at any given time to be ready for a possible resident placed on medical quarantine status as referenced below.
• A temporary “Coronavirus Response Team” has convened (including RITS and Probation Administration as well as Medical Providers and Nursing Staff) and begun meeting 2-3 times per week to review updates and procedures.

Resident Screening
• Whenever the shift coordinators learn about a pending intake, an initial screening will be done over the phone with the referring agency prior to arrival in the facility. An attempt will also be made to contact a parent, guardian, group home, probation, or other responsible adult for collateral information regarding the screening questions.
• A screening will be conducted at intake (by nursing staff between 7 am - 11 pm or by the admitting Juvenile Program Worker (JPW) between 11 pm – 7 am) in the sally port while the youth remains in the custody of the transporting agency. The screening is for any new resident to identify potential symptoms of or exposure to Coronavirus and results will be documented on the “COVID-19 Screening Form.” The individual or individuals conducting the initial screening will wear standard mask and gloves.
• Any resident who reports cough or fever at any time while in the facility will be screened as outlined above.
• The following steps will be taken immediately with any positive screen:
  o Place a mask on the resident
  o Have the resident wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
  o The JPW conducting the search on the youth will wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to include mask, face shields, gown, and gloves while in the room. The resident will be placed in the holding cell until enough information is gathered to decide about whether medical quarantine is necessary in consultation with nursing and medical providers.
Management of individual residents with suspected or confirmed Coronavirus:

- One staff will escort the youth to a designated room while the second staff follows and disinfects all contacted surfaces from intake or initial area to the designated room.

- Resident will be placed on "medical quarantine status" in a designated room.
  - One bathroom will be identified close to the resident’s room to be used only by residents on quarantine.

- Administration must approve of the transfer of the resident to or from a quarantine room if it involves a unit transfer.

- Assigned staff working with quarantined resident(s) will remain in that area and limit movement or exposure to other areas of the facility.

- Notification will be made to the following individuals of a resident’s medical quarantine status, of any necessary transportation off-site, and of “clearance” off medical quarantine status:
  - RITS Administration (Executive Director, Superintendent, Clinical Director, Principal)
  - RITS Shift Coordinators
  - RITS Unit Managers, Clinical Social Workers, Nurse
  - Consulting Medical Provider (on-site or on-call)
  - Consulting Medical Director
  - Resident’s Parent/Guardian
  - Court

- Nursing Staff, in coordination with the on-site or on-call Medical Provider, will take steps to contact the Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 hotline to coordinate details of testing as indicated.
  - Any resident going off-site for testing purposes will wear a mask and wash their hands prior to leaving the facility in the van.
  - Any van used to transport residents off-site either for testing or for further medical treatment will be properly cleaned upon return to the facility.

- The following guidelines will be in place for any residents on medical quarantine status:
  - Resident will always remain in his/her room except:
    - If necessary, to use the specified toilet facilities and shower
    - If advised by the Rhode Island Department of Health for testing purposes
    - If necessary, to be transported to the hospital for worsening medical condition
  - Additionally, resident will wear a mask whenever outside the assigned room.
  - Resident will be monitored on a 5-minute watch.
  - Resident will be offered water, food, medications, books, and schoolwork.
  - Nursing staff will obtain vital signs and conduct a brief exam twice daily.
  - Medical providers (on-site or on-call) will review status on a daily basis and provide consultation to Nursing staff as needed regarding need for on-site or off-site medical evaluation.
  - Residents will not be able to participate in family visits.
  - The Superintendent or his designee will facilitate family phone calls in rooms utilizing state cell phones (that will be sanitized in between uses).
  - Only necessary staff will enter the room with a resident; others may provide resources (food, books, schoolwork, etc.) to the designated staff person for that room.
• Any staff entering the room with the resident will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to include a mask, face shield, gown, and gloves while in the room, then remove them properly and wash hands or utilize hand sanitizer upon leaving the room or post
  o Additional training will be provided to staff on the proper use of PPE as needed

• Nursing Staff in consultation with Medical Provider will determine when a resident is safe to come off medical quarantine status (typically 48 hours after the resolution of all symptoms)

• Unit Staff will maintain a daily log with any relevant activities or updates, as well as complete a “Rhode Island Juvenile Corrections Constant Watch Form” (SRA#4) for any individual on medical quarantine status that will be placed in the unit logbook as well as a copy provided to the Shift Coordinators at the end of each shift

Management of an outbreak with multiple residents with suspected or confirmed Coronavirus

• Residents on medical quarantine will be cohorted in one mod as referenced above and will not be allowed to circulate in other parts of the facility

• Administration will designate certain staff to care for these individuals only and will limit movement of designated staff between different parts of the facility to decrease the risk of staff spreading the virus

• Consideration of staffing third shift nursing may be necessary for caring for a group of ill residents

• Staff working with the residents in quarantine should be monitored for fever and cough. Those with temperatures or symptoms should be sent home to recover.

Overall Management

• All related policies, procedures, and memos will be reviewed on a minimum weekly basis by the RITS Administration, Consulting Medical Providers, and Nursing Staff — it is likely that as the situation continues to evolve, changes will need to be made to policy and procedure and they will be communicated accordingly.