What measures have been put in place to continue to offer education services to youth held in secure facilities while combating the Coronavirus? (particularly those who operate their own school district)

COVID-19 Responses to keeping educational services going in juvenile facilities.

Kansas stopped visitation late last week but is offering some additional, no cost calls and video visits. We have restricted access to the facility (no volunteers/mentors, etc). We are maintaining programming and activities.

Our Governor announced late yesterday that all schools K-12 would be closed for the remainder of the school year. The week prior, many school districts were delaying school and our facility school staff did close for part of the week. We are currently working with Department of Education to be exempted and try to continue education in the facility. Community school districts are planning for on-line learning to finish the academic year so we may have to follow that lead.

The Governor also announced that starting Monday, all state employees (except essential staff) will be home on paid administrative leave for two weeks. This is designed to help agencies and Governor’s Office to plan for longer term strategies and returning to full capacity when appropriate.

We have the common travel restrictions and quarantine measures that were recommended by the CDC.

Facilities in Ohio have no in-person visitation, very limited entry (staff and essential contractors only), and screening (including temperature) at both the front entrance and sally port. We have also worked out a two-part screening process with county detention centers so that any youth coming or going with DYS are screened both at the beginning facility and the destination. Movements are only as legally or medically necessary. All of our non-facility staff are on a travel ban and most are working from home.

Restrictions actually timed perfectly with our regularly scheduled two-week school intersession. So we are working on a school plan for when teachers return to work. I can update afterward.

In West Virginia our educational services for our residential facilities and programs is provided by the State Dept. of Education. We have ten residential programs and at the present time all ten are receiving the normal educational programming. We are following the recommended protocol for scrubbing hands, wiping down computers and desks, doorknobs and other areas within the classrooms as well as the entire facility. We are I suppose paying closer attention to these areas, although I would like to think that the cleaning routine was being performed previously and not just because we have this special time. The short answer is that we are continuing our academic and vocational curriculum.

Montana has shut down all volunteers and visitors to the facility. With our residential school we are transitioning it back to the housing units so that staff, youth and units are not mixing in the separate school house. Teachers are assigned units and teach small groups and do not travel to other housing units.
Washington State Governor has closed public and private schools however we are currently negotiating institutional education to continue education in our facilities. We are doing point of entry screening protocols and have extensive cleaning protocols also in place.

Virginia DJJ closed our school at the end of the day on Friday per a directive of the Governor who closed all schools in the state for at least two weeks. A ban was placed on large gatherings at the same time. Our Educators are preparing individual learning plans for the youth to use on their housing units. Our medical staff are providing education on the virus and flu prevention. They are also teaching proper hand washing. We hope to use Black Light hand washing kits in the process.

We developed a four stage response protocol for COVID 19. The activities ranged from initial preparation and education to school closure and quarantine. The Governor's order expedited the school closure. We also suspended visitation just over a week ago, much earlier than expected as things quickly ramped up in Virginia. As things continue to unfold, these earlier than expected steps may prove beneficial in the long run.

In Utah, Facilities are in a good spot right now - next big wave of challenges is starting to be community: placements/providers/parole. Utah provides school through LEAs. Some are still holding classes- others are not.

We have limited entry to facilities only for essential- which can include family visits- but pushing nearly all to video. All screened (questionnaire and temps)
Am and Pm Huddle calls are the answer for us! 😊. Trying to minimize daily email with my folks.

In Hawaii, we suspended family visits for 30 days to our youth correctional facility. Judiciary has also severely restricted court hearings to late April. Governor today issued 15 days of social distance – stay home for all non-essential state workers.

Cincinnati, OH has a Subcontract with teachers. All school work is online and now the teachers are online working remotely with students. The facility can block internet sites while youth access educational services. Only difference between normal operations and now is that the teachers are not in classroom. All youth are participating in educational services.

AZ facilities have their own district teachers in the facility who are employees of the facility. They continue to hold classes for youth and continue the educational services. Challenge will be when teachers get sick and or youth, then they will have to modify the school hours.

Maryland DJS's schools are operated by the Maryland State Department of Education. I spoke with the Superintendent and we agreed to keep our schools open. Everyone entering the facilities are subject to a temperature check as well as a health screening given by a health professional. We have also moved youth out of one facility to serve as a quarantine area to separate youth who are sick. Each detention center has also cleared a unit out to serve as a separation area.

LA still requiring education staff to report to the facility and provide instruction same as a school day. They have to follow our protocols at the front gate (temperature checks) just like our security and treatment staff follow. Also doing the recommended cleaning daily and use of hand sanitizer throughout campus. We have put out notices of when not to report to work due to illness or the care of a loved one who may be ill. We have had most of our teachers come in and provide instruction. 😊
The Minnesota Correctional Facility – Red Wing is currently operating like normal. (Unlike other schools in the state that have been shut down by the Governor). Our teachers are state employees (not school district employees), so our teachers are still required to come to work and provide services to youth. We have developed a plan in case the virus causes us to isolate youth and living units. We have tablets in which we will deliver educational services as well as the backup of providing packets to students. Our goal is to continue to operate normal for as long as possible and our youth are attending school 6 hours a day. Teachers are trying to spread youth out more in the classroom; however, social distancing is really difficult in our living units anyway.

DJJ Illinois is continuing to operate school, with no more than 4 youth in a classroom at any given time. We are also practicing social distancing and cleaning procedures every shift, and are screening every individual entering the facility, including staff.

The Oregon Department of Education holds the contracts for educational services in Oregon Youth Correctional Facilities. They published guidance Sunday giving schools the option of remaining open and/or excusing vulnerable staff. On Monday all nine of our schools announced closures through spring break. Community schools were closed by order of the Governor statewide through April 1.

Delaware is still holding school. Practicing 6 feet social distance (it’s difficult, but we are trying) and limiting the amount of youth and staff in the classroom to under 10.

Vermont is still holding class in its one secure facility. We are cleaning all high touch surfaces multiple times per day. All people, including staff, entering the building are being screened.

California is holding classes with social distancing and cleaning procedures. The goal is to try and maintain this as long as possible.

The Alameda County Office of Education has closed all schools until April 7 including the school at our juvenile hall and camp. Alameda is one of the six shelter in place counties ordered by the County Health Officer.

RI – see attached plan

New Mexico continues to hold school as well following all of the recommended practices already mentioned.
As active members of the community, we share a vision that all children, youth and families reach their fullest potential in a safe and nurturing environment.