



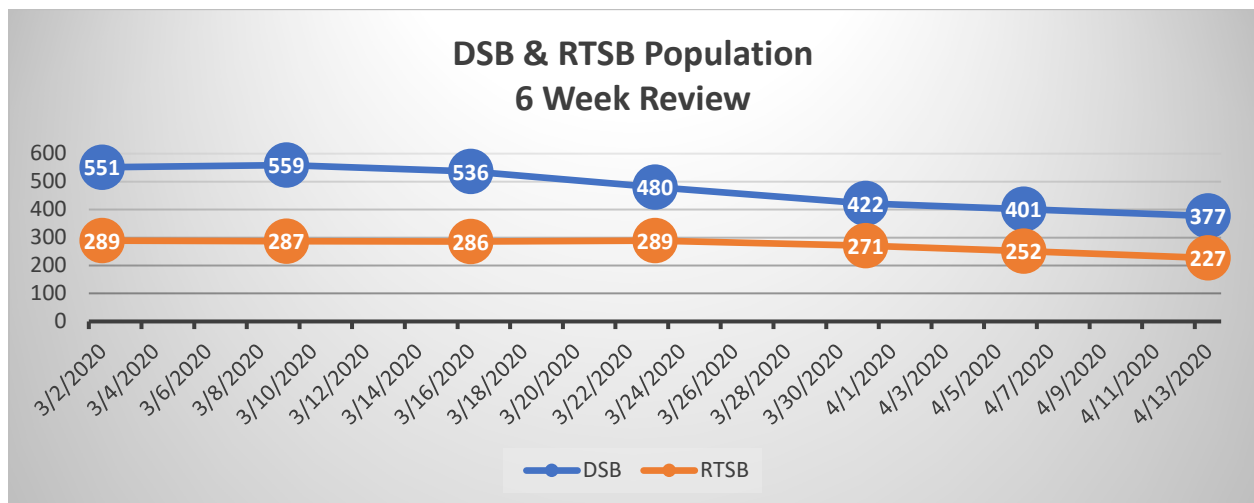
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Los Angeles County Probation COVID-19 Update #3 4/17/20

Juvenile Facilities

Over the period from April 10-April 17, the juvenile hall population decreased from 376 to 374. Juvenile residential camps dropped from 231 to 210 over the same period.

The Probation Department continues to work with the courts and legal partners on methods to safely reduce the juvenile population housed in detention facilities. From March 2 to April 13 the juvenile detention population has decreased from 551 to 377 in juvenile halls. In addition, the residential camps have a reduced population, from 289 to 227. Overall, the Juvenile detention facilities population has decreased by 28% in the last six weeks.



Please note the population of youth with pending court orders to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) have been postponed to assist the State of California with their declaration of intake suspension.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Staff Health and Screening Measures

The Department is screening for every person entering a juvenile detention facility. Those attempting to enter a juvenile hall or camp at any time are required to verbally respond if they currently have new or worsening symptoms of a respiratory illness. If the individual's response is that they are experiencing symptoms, they will be restricted from entering the facility that day.

From April 10-April 17, one Probation employee (from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall) tested positive for COVID-19. Since the pandemic began, 16 Probation staff that have tested positive for COVID-19. Eight of those staff members work in Juvenile facilities although two of the staff members have been on leave and were not at work when they tested positive.

These employees are legally entitled to privacy and we will provide no further details at this time. For each employee who has tested positive, the County will notify potential workplace contacts, including other employees who may have been in close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual.

Currently there are 37 youth at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall who are being isolated from the rest of the camp due to possible exposure. The youth are doing well and not showing any symptoms. The Department has medical professionals from Juvenile Court Health Services and Department of Mental Health who are continually monitoring the health and well-being of youth that are in those units including checking their symptoms twice a day.

Juvenile Intake Procedures: Screening on Entry into Juvenile Hall

The Department continues to screen all youth admitted to facilities for risk of COVID-19 infection at the time of admission. Should it be required, Probation and Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) have identified appropriate space to isolate youth with medical issues. Probation and JCHS continue to complete a screening that includes asking questions related to infectious diseases which continue to be part of the Initial Intake Questionnaire. JCHS is immediately notified if any symptoms that are associated with the COVID-19 are observed, if the youth has had close contact with an individual with COVID-19 or if the youth has traveled to an area previously identified as a COVID-19 area of concern.

Health Care Services

The Department has coordinated a test pilot for Telemedicine at Central Juvenile Hall and the Dorothy Kirby Center with the JCHS team to explore other methods for nurses and/or doctors to communicate with medical staff outside of the facility for evaluation and assessment of youth.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Clinical resources:

A DHS Infectious Disease specialist is assigned to assist correctional facilities. He will be a clinical resource for medical staff to help workflow and answer clinical questions.

Admissions:

Admission processes remain the same. Efforts are being made to be sure that youth are being screened as early as possible. Measures are in place to quarantine any youth with symptoms in the safest way possible.

Clinics:

Workflows are continuing to be reviewed and refined as necessary to be sure that youth are being seen for necessary appointments safely. Specialty clinic appointments outside the juvenile hall are to be either made via phone visits or rescheduled as much as possible.

Releases from a Probation facility:

Any quarantined or isolated youth will need to be reviewed with JCHS to be sure that the receiving location is aware of the medical status of the youth and can maintain the appropriate level of housing for the youth. If necessary, Public Health will also be made aware as appropriate.

The Department ensures that all critical security and safety posts are manned as required by the Board and State Community Standards and in accordance with the Department's Emergency Operations Plan. Contingency plans have been developed and put in place if facilities are not adequately staffed. Juvenile and Adult Field Operations have been designated to assist and have continued to report to the halls and camps since March 23, 2020.

Number of Juvenile and Adult Field Staff Temporarily Re-allocated to Juvenile Institutions

Facility	No. of Staff Reported 4/10/20	No. of Staff Reported 4/15/20
BJNJH	28	30
CJH	53	38
CBA	10	11
CGR	14	15
CJP	9	11
CJS	0	0
CVK	2	3
DKC	19	14
TOTAL	135	122

Note: Staff population includes all sworn and non-sworn staff throughout all three shifts.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Expanded Precautions at Institutions

In addition to efforts outlined in past updates, Probation has made additional efforts to keep youth and staff safe from COVID-19:

- The Department has issued masks to all staff and youth in juvenile halls and residential camps.
- A scheduled delivery of sanitizing stations will take place soon and installations will begin upon arrival.
- A town hall conference meeting took place April 15 hosted by the Department of Health Services (DHS). The participants of the meeting included probation managers from juvenile institutions, and personnel from Juvenile Health Court Services (JCHS). Probation managers were briefed on infection control and guidelines to establish safety in response to COVID-19.

The Department has developed a Juvenile Institutions Operation Plan to minimize the risks of COVID-19 in the facilities that was reviewed and approved by the Department of Public Health (DPH). The plan is aligned with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other jurisdictions in California. The Department's role during the pandemic is detailed in addition to the implementation of practices and procedures that limit the transmission of the virus to staff and youth. DPH signage in English and Spanish has been posted outside each facility and inside the living units, restrooms, kitchen, staff sleeping quarters. The Department has increased daily cleaning and sanitation at each facility in addition to posting and distributing COVID-19 related information to educate staff and youth about the virus and precautions that are being taken.

All Probation facilities have been instructed to conduct additional deep-cleaning efforts in high-traffic, high-volume areas, including visiting and health care facilities. Staff have also been granted permission to carry up to 2 ounces of personal-use hand sanitizer. Public Health guidelines are reinforced daily to all staff and youth of the importance of social distancing and frequent handwashing.

Procurement of PPE and Enhanced Cleaning Efforts

Administrative services continue to purchase personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer as quickly as possible. Our cumulative purchase volume of masks exceeded 100,000 as of this week, with deliveries anticipated over the next two to three weeks. At times, scheduled deliveries do not occur because items are understandably diverted to health care providers.

Hand sanitizer has at times been a particular challenge, but some of the orders placed weeks ago are beginning to arrive this week.

Probation's Management Services Bureau continue to provide janitorial services at facilities to ensure all bathrooms and staff quarters (where applicable) are cleaned daily and have readily



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

available hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper and disinfectant. The Department has also hired additional staff to clean and disinfect common touch areas twice per shift.

Social Distancing Efforts in Institutions

- Limiting the congregation of youth to small groups of 6 or less
- Rearranging scheduled movements to minimize mixing of individuals from different housing areas
- Having a youth shower individually as opposed to several youth at a time
- Maximizing outside space during recreation
- Conducting staggered meals (having youth sit at different tables in small groups)
- Having an identified space for youth who are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Instructing staff to comply with social distancing when coming on or off duty
- Having youth sleep head to toe in camps
- Having DMH and JCHS communicate with youth by phone when appropriate

Communication and guidance to staff

We have worked continuously to keep staff informed of the evolving situation, including creating internal and external webpages with health-related information from CDC and L.A. County Public Health on how they can protect themselves against COVID-19. Managers and supervisors are conducting staff meetings in conjunction with JCHS to update staff on the pandemic and answer any questions or concerns. Several emails have also been disseminated by the Department informing staff of updated information. We have a dedicated page for employees on our intranet, this page provides messages from our Chief regarding COVID-19, telework information, and telework time codes. There is also information from L.A. County Public Health, such as updates on personnel and work-related questions specific to the COVID-19 issue. Social media platforms are being utilized to provide resources for COVID-19 and pertinent Department information. The Chief Probation Officer was a part of a COVID-19 response media briefing in which the Department's COVID-19 response efforts were shared. There was also a press release disseminated regarding Daily COVID-19 Updates.

Probation cares for the health and wellness of its workforce and have been working to accommodate those who have been impacted by this evolving situation. We will continue to work diligently with DHR and labor organizations on how we can best keep our workforce protected and provide for the safety and security of our institutions.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

COVID-19 Communications with Youth

JCHS presented a PowerPoint presentation to educate youth in the halls and camps about COVID-19 and the proper precautions to take while housed in the facility. Probation and medical staff were present to answer any questions or concerns the youth have about the pandemic. Town Hall meetings continue to be held to alleviate rumors and youth's anxiety in addition to reinforcing proactive personal hygiene practices such as daily frequent hand washing, coughing into the upper sleeve and social distancing. Youth continue to be advised to notify staff if they are not feeling well or are displaying any symptoms associated with COVID-19.

Communications to Clients and Families about COVID-19

Juvenile Institutional Managers are provided with daily COVID-19 updates. In addition, they continue to participate in weekly conference calls hosted by Emergency Management to share information and obtain COVID-19 updates from partner agencies. In addition, efforts to provide youth and families with COVID-19 information include:

- Posting of DPH signage outside each facility and inside the living units, restrooms, kitchen, staff sleeping quarters.
- Interagency town hall meetings with JCHS nurses to address concerns, answer questions and provide plan
- Contacting parents, and community-based organizations and advising on the cancelation of all normal visitations.
- Mailing of COVID-19 information flyers for parents and community

Youth-Parent Communications

Visitation at juvenile halls and residential treatment facilities remains temporarily suspended. All youth are receiving free extended phone calls multiple times a week. We are currently in the process of developing protocols for "virtual visits" through Google Duo. Additionally, the Department has requested iPhones for each facility to conduct Skype type video calls to be used in lieu of in person visitation. As the technology is built out, we are also exploring maximizing the technology we already have to increase the capacity of "virtual visits." We are currently in discussion with LACOE about utilizing their laptops to utilize the WebEx platform as another viable "virtual visit" option.

All youth are also provided with supplies for letter writing such as paper, pencils, crayons etc. The Department pays for all postage regardless of the number of letters a youth sends out.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Efforts to address the medically fragile population in detention facilities

The Probation Department has collaborated with Juvenile Health Court Services (JCHS) to conduct a review of the detained juvenile population. On April 14, 2020, the one remaining pregnant youth was released from juvenile hall to placement on a Suitable Placement court order. Continued efforts will remain in place for the intake of new admits in juvenile hall.

Probation Procedures for Quarantine and Isolation

Youth that are quarantined due to possible exposure by another youth or staff are separated to a different unit and the unit in question is cleaned and sanitized immediately. JCHS check on the quarantined youth symptoms twice daily and notifies management of any concerns that arise.

In the event a youth (up to 5) are screened as being infectious, they shall be transported and housed in juvenile hall in individual rooms inside the medical module. If the number of youths with similar symptoms significantly rise (>5) and the medical module runs out of individual rooms, the excess cohort of youth be placed in an available single unit. If there is no available space in juvenile hall, infected camp youth must remain in camp and housed in one side of the dorm.

PPE:

Medical staff are wearing PPE on a voluntary basis but are required to wear PPE when medical care is needed. Discussions are being made to have surgical masks for all clinical encounters. However, social distancing is recommended whenever possible and good hand hygiene is still encouraged. More hand sanitizers are being obtained to give to medical staff on an individual basis for quicker access to perform hand hygiene. Efforts are underway to have N95 masks collected and sterilized per DHS guidelines.

Youth with upper respiratory infection symptoms:

Working with probation staff at the juvenile halls, units were identified to be used to quarantine any youth with exposures to known COVID-19 cases or isolate those with symptoms of upper respiratory infections. Testing will be done on these youths on a case-by-case basis with assistance from Public Health and DHS Infectious Disease staff. If symptomatic, youth will be isolated for at least seven days.

Seven youth have been tested for COVID-19 over the past week. Five tests were negative for COVID-19 and two remain pending. A total of 11 youth have been tested for COVID-19 overall.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Mental Health Services

The Department of Mental Health is working with their information technology staff to set up videoconferencing tools in order to enhance its capability and enable DMH to serve juvenile justice youth by providing mental health and psychiatric services via a virtual platform.

School for Youth in Juvenile Facilities

The Department is collaborating with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to implement remote learning utilizing laptops. Pilot sessions have been conducted and Central Juvenile Hall will be launching the first remote instruction beginning April 16. The remaining facilities will begin on different dates throughout this week and the following week.

Youth Recreational and Enrichment Activities

Outdoor programs are continuing to be conducted as weather permits. Programs are being conducted outside as it is feasible to maintain social distancing. Additionally, the Department has taken inventory of each facility needs in terms of books, magazines, board games, TV/movies and sports equipment and are in the process of acquiring extra equipment in addition to reading materials.

Rehabilitative Programs

During this time, Probation Education Services staff continue to provide the following services:

- Youth Work Program: In collaboration with Workforce Development and Aging Community Services (WDACS), youth will continue to gain work experience and earn a paycheck in the Camps and Halls. Youth work for an average of 120 hours which includes 20 hours of paid Personal Enrichment Training (PET) facilitated by trained Probation Education Services Staff. Each participant receives an employment transition plan upon their release from the camp or hall.
- Book Clubs: Education services staff facilitate multiple book clubs throughout the camps and halls.
- R.I.S.E (Resilience and Intergroup Solidarity Education): RISE consists of 25 small group sessions that reinforce team building, coping skills and provides conflict resolution techniques among other skills.
- Careersafe Certification: This program provides on-demand training courses in the area of OSHA designed to improve workplace safety, compliance and risk management. Youth are able to enroll in various 10-hour courses that lead to valuable training certificates.
- College Classes



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

- Youth Council: Youth involved in the council are given the opportunity to voice their concerns and offer ideas to improve their camp programs. This allows them to gain confidence and be empowered through their decision-making. They are given the opportunity through the program to have their voices heard and make important decisions to positively impact their futures.
- Art Programs through Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network using distance learning strategies (conference call, cell phones, laptops)
- Life Skills: Budgeting, Nutrition, Conflict Resolution, Stress Management, Parenting, Basic Hygiene Practices and so many other topics are covered in our Life Skills class. Many youth have questions about various aspects of life as they transition from their teenage years into young adulthood. This class offers a flexible curriculum to provide the instructor the opportunity to provide instruction relevant to what the youth are interested in learning about in that moment. This Montessori style approach meets the youth where they are, and increases the likelihood of retained interest and engagement in the material

All programming facilitated accounts for social distancing and small group settings.

Reducing the Population in Juvenile Facilities

The L.A. County Probation Department is working with the courts and legal partners on methods to safely reduce the juvenile population housed at Probation facilities. The Community Detention Program will only detain violations when a youth cuts their electronic monitoring device, is missing for more than 12 hours or commits a new crime. In terms of releasing post-adjudicated youth sent to camp for rehabilitation, we continuously screen for early release due to youths meeting their treatment goals. Those that meet eligibility criteria will be sent to court with a recommendation for release, however, only the court can authorize a release.

- Unlike the adult system, we are unable to unilaterally release children from custody. Youth are committed to our care by a judicial process and court order and can only be released from custody by the juvenile court. On March 15, the Department submitted revised Community Detention Program (CDP) protocols to Judge John Lawson, Assistant Presiding Judge, LA County Delinquency Court which was subsequently approved on March 18. Effective March 18, the following CDP protocols have been implemented:
 - The Community Detention Program will only detain violations when a youth cuts their electronic monitoring device, is missing for more than 12 hours or commits a new crime. Otherwise they will be kept on and a report will be sent with the next court date. Detentions are not conducted as a result of failure to drug test and gang association.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

- There was a 31% reduction in Juvenile Probation Violations from January to March.
- After discussions with the juvenile court, the Department screened 311 cases on March 24th in the camps to consider early release in accordance with the guidelines received. As a result, we recommended and submitted a total of 56 cases to court asking for release where appropriate.
- As of April 15, 78 youth have been released from camps. The Department is also continuing to conduct pre-release home assessments and transitional multi-disciplinary team meetings. The aftercare unit is requesting to calendar another 34 cases for early release.
- Probation will continue to meet with Juvenile Court leadership, the Public Defender and the Alternative Public Defender to evaluate court orders.
- As a precautionary measure, to limit the number of incoming and outgoing youth, on April 2 we temporarily halted movements from the halls to camps and camps to halls.

Plan for Court Hearings

The Department has developed protocols in collaboration with Probation's Information Systems Bureau to utilize the WebEx Video Conferencing platform for virtual court proceedings. Virtual court is now live in all juvenile institutions and juvenile courts. ISB will be available to support the courts on site or via remote desktop. There are certain types of cases that **will require** an in-person appearance. These are:

- Court will not take a plea on a strike case, DJJ eligible case involving a crime that is sexual in nature or a 707(b) offense via WebEx. The defense counsel and minor need to be present in court for a plea on these types of cases. This is subject to change if there is a full and complete shut-down of the court and no parties are allowed to enter.
- Court will not be handling trials or transfer hearings via WebEx.
- If there are sensitive cases (non-707(b) or non-strike), the DA or defense does need to voice an objection to using WebEx for the handling of the case if there is an issue.
- If a protective order needs to be issued, the minor needs to be present to be personally served.

A youth that needs to attend court but is in a quarantined unit **will not** be transported to court. The youth will also **not** be using a Virtual Court workstation. The unit staff will need to work closely with the Virtual Court Coordinators and the youth will be allowed to phone in to the virtual hearing from his or her quarantined unit.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Living arrangements for Youth upon Release

By law, Probation must always take steps to avoid release of youth to homelessness. All releases continue to happen in consultation with a parent/caregiver or, where none is available, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Probation Placement.

Beginning with the initial MDT, the youth's transition plan into the community is discussed. If the youth is under the care of DCFS or has a history of being in suitable placement, the youth is flagged to ensure their transition plan includes housing, in consultation with DCFS and/or Probation Placement. If the youth is set for family reunification the home is assessed by the field DPO. If the home is deemed unsuitable, the transition officer will work with placement to find a relative. If placement is the only option, the youth is referred to Residential Based Services to start the interagency screening and the camp facilitates the interview.

If the youth is over 18, and the youth has previous placement, youth will qualify for AB12 and/or Independent Living Program. Most times the court will terminate probation and the youth will be placed in transitional bed with the Housing Authority, but at the very least go to a shelter.

Suitable Placement

- Expediting movement of youth from Juvenile Hall to Probation Assessment Centers for youth pending new suitable placement or replacement orders
- Continued face to face contacts with youth placed in Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), with Resources Families (relatives/non-relative homes). Also, non-minor Dependents placed in Foster Care through Transitional Housing Programs and Supervised Independent Living Programs.
- Providing mutual aid to other Probation Departments throughout the state by providing face to face contact with youth who have been placed in STRTPs in the County of Los Angeles.
- Continued participation on the weekly County Leadership call with STRTP Leadership to proactively work through potential issues that might surface for staff and/or youth as a result of being exposed to or contracting COVID-19.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Juvenile Services Field Division

- Monthly telephone contact with all juvenile probationers
- Weekly contacts with High-Risk Offenders, specifically the Intensive Gang Supervision Program
- Providing assistance and information pamphlets/guides to families unable to travel to obtain food items from food centers as set up by various school districts and other community resources
- Currently surveying youth/caregivers to determine the barriers for youth unable to connect with an academic program with an eye toward connecting youth to or providing the necessary resources to engage in academic programming
- Court Officers continue to report daily to juvenile court departments
- Citation Diversion Court hearings postponed until further notice

Adult Division

Field Probation COVID-19 Precautions and related activities

Area offices remain closed to the public. Deputy Probation Officers continue to maintain contact with probation clients by phone, email and videoconference. Clients are encouraged to reach out to their assigned probation officer as well. The Department continues to conduct field visits and is prioritizing cases where there are vulnerable victims, sex offenders, and any other circumstances that are considered high risk or require special attention. In addition to conducting safety checks, officers are providing COVID-19 Public Health information and resources. Additionally, the Department released a notice instructing adult field DPOs to work with clients experiencing financial difficulty as it relates to fines and fees.

Adult Field Services is working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to facilitate the release of inmates back to Los Angeles County and is collaborating with the Sheriff's Department to assist in clearing the inmates for possible release. Probation is working with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department to process these individuals and assist with appropriate orientation, addressing housing and other emergent needs.

Deputy Probation Officers assigned to the Adult Division also continue to support the staffing in juvenile institutions.

Probation Efforts Statewide



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Statement from Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC):

<https://www.cpoc.org/post/california-probation-chiefs-statement-protocols-dedicated-keeping-probation-clients-staff-and>

Communication and guidance to public

For information or services, clients and members of the community may call the juvenile facilities. For general questions, please contact the Probation Information Center at 866-931-2222 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To view previous Probation COVID-19 updates, please visit

<https://probation.lacounty.gov/coronavirus/#1585353402662-50edeac8-16c9>