



# *Glenn H. Derryberry, Judge*

*Allen County Court of Common Pleas  
Probate & Juvenile Divisions*

1000 Wardhill Avenue  
Lima, OH 45805

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 12, 2020

RE: Statement Regarding COVID-19 & the Juvenile Detention Center

The health, safety, and overall wellbeing of our staff members and the youth and families we serve is always our primary concern. In response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, safety procedures and practices were established in March of this year in order to minimize and manage the risk of a COVID-19 exposure within the Allen County Juvenile Detention Center. Following is a list of just a few of the procedures put in place at that time:

- Staff members were required to start wearing masks while on duty unless alone in their own office.
- In-person visitations between residents and/or guardians or custodians were suspended and replaced with visitation via Zoom video conferencing technology.
- Other visitors to the center (tours, observers, non-essential program providers) were suspended.
- Service providers and other visitors (i.e. attorneys, law enforcement, case workers) who were authorized to enter the facility were required to start submitting to the same health survey as employees and to take the same precautions regarding wearing face coverings and personal sanitation (hand washing).
- Employees were required to start submitting to a basic health survey (including body temperature) for symptoms and follow appropriate hygiene/sanitation procedures in order to gain entry into the facility.
- Enhanced sanitation and disinfecting practices were put into place.
- New intakes into the facility were required to start quarantining away from other residents for 14 days.
- The practice of sending home staff persons who developed symptoms while on duty was established with the requirement they quarantine for a period of time in accordance with CDC and Allen County Health Department guidelines.
- The practice of quarantining residents exhibiting symptoms of illness and testing them for COVID-19 was initiated.

Since being established in March, these precautions, procedures, and practices have remained in place and will remain so into the foreseeable future until such a time that COVID-19 is no longer the risk that it is today. Despite the combined efforts of our Detention Center staff members, managers, and service providers, we did receive notification on Saturday (October 11<sup>th</sup>) that two of our residents recently tested

were in fact positive for COVID-19; both of these residents were already under medical observation and quarantine at the time we received the results of their individual tests.

The Allen County Health Department was immediately contacted for guidance & support as was Mercy Health who, by contract, serves as our medical authority. In response and pursuant to instructions and recommendations from our medical authority, all residents in the facility have been placed in medical quarantine until such time as we receive the results of additional testing. Testing was collected on all residents of the facility earlier this afternoon. The details of testing all of our staff and service providers is, at the time of this release, being finalized. In as much as it appears that the virus entered the facility by way of an asymptomatic carrier, we have initiated the process of contact tracing in the hopes of identifying a source if possible. The parents/guardians of affected residents were notified by Detention Center Staff as well the Allen County Health Department. While we cannot comment on the specifics of individual residents due to privacy/confidentiality concerns, we can say affected residents remain under close observation by staff members and our medical authority and that none have required hospitalization. We are fortunate to report that symptoms exhibited by these residents have only continued to improve since first being identified.

Judge Derryberry and his entire team at JDC remains committed to ensuring the safety of the community as well as that of the residents of the facility and, to that end, we will continue to monitor and follow all guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, the Allen County Health Department, and Mercy Health.

Questions or requests for additional information should be directed to:

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