

**Randall County Juvenile Probation**  
**Youth Center of the High Plains Secure Detention and Residential Services**  
**Notice of Response to COVID - 19**

**March 20, 2020**

We would like to keep you informed about how Randall County Juvenile Probation (RCJP) has taken steps, and continues to take steps, in response to COVID-19 safety protocols for the care of children in the Youth Center of the High Plains (YCHP). We will continue to update our website with any new information.

**March 20, 2020**

- Randall County Commissioners made a Declaration of Disaster, Order No. 2020 -11.
- The RCJP implemented COVID-19 screening procedures, including taking the temperatures of any essential personnel prior to entry into the YCHP to begin 3/21/2020.
- The RCJP office has limited the number of employees in the non-secure premises of the probation department to 10 employees or less.
- All non-essential personnel were instructed to vacate the secure portion of the YCHP facility. All essential business will be conducted via phone and teleconferencing.
- All YCHP residents will continue to have access to daily crisis mental health services and psychiatric evaluation/ consultation as needed via video teleconferencing.
- Effective 3/21/20, the RCJP will cease any cross – entry between the probation offices and the YCHP secure facility, except for exigent and emergent situations.

**March 19, 2020**

- Governor Abbott issued Executive Order No. GA – 08, relating to COVID-19.
- All schools ordered to close until April 3, 2020. This includes the CISD campus located in the YCHP.
- The YCHP is a campus of Canyon Independent School District. We will continue to communicate with CISD to receive updates about the continuation of educational programs as more information becomes available. You may also check CISD’s website for updates <https://www.canyonisd.net/>
- RCJP initiated plans to adjust our operations in the YCHP in order to provide phone/ videoconferencing capabilities to conduct all necessary business while limiting the potential for exposure.
- RCJP implemented that all YCHP residents will be permitted to have two 30- minute phone calls or video conferences with their parent/ guardian weekly, in lieu of visitation.
- Cleaning and sanitization practices increased.
- All YCHP resident outings and home passes were suspended temporarily.
- Intake and release procedures were modified to occur in the YCHP sally-port and lobby areas only.

- RCJP / YCHP personnel were encouraged to limit all personal travel outside of the Amarillo/ Canyon area and to areas where COVID-19 is prevalent.

#### **March 18, 2020**

- RCJP collaborated with the Randall County IT department to establish the ability to offer YCHP visitation via video teleconferencing.

#### **March 13, 2020**

- RCJP has suspended outside contact from non-essential personnel and visitors into the YCHP; i.e. parent guardians, interns, contractors, volunteers, etc. (This decision is supported by the Governor's Office in conjunction with a declared state of emergency proclamation issued on March 13, 2020).
- YCHP replaced in-person visitation with extended phone calls for residents.
- RCJP Administration communicated to all staff and residents about the importance of universal preventive measures they can take to avoid common colds and viruses including the Coronavirus. A few of the preventive measures included frequent hand washing and staying home if sick. All areas of the facility that contain shared bathroom space were equipped with proper handwashing signs.
- YCHP Juvenile Supervision personnel were provided educational information on COVID- 19 and they acknowledged review and receipt. This included information about how to monitor residents for the symptoms of COVID-19 and how to respond.
- Medical protocols initiated so that YCHP residents who exhibit symptoms or warrant further screening are promptly referred for medical assessment.

#### **March 12, 2020**

- RCJP initiated new admission protocols to update the YCHP health assessment with a specific COVID-19 screening process.
- RCJP initiated taking temperatures and scrutinizing for potential COVID-19 symptomology of all new YCHP admissions prior to making housing assignments.
- RCJP initiated temporary medical isolation protocol (pending a medical assessment) should a new YCHP admission have potential COVID-19 symptoms or if the screening indicates intervention, pending further evaluation and instructions from medical personnel.
- RCJP ceased all business-related travel.

#### **March 11, 2020**

- RCJP Administrative Team consulted with the RCJP medical staff who provided COVID-19 information; which included identification and protocols. Administrative staff also reviewed state and federal recommendations to ensure continuity.
- RCJP Administration consulted City of Amarillo Department of Health Services.

- RCJP maintenance department took inventory and ordered necessary supplies to ensure facility cleanliness and sanitization as recommended in COVID-19 protocols.

### **March 10, 2020**

- RCJP Administrative Team met to review information and develop a plan in response to the developing nationwide COVID- 19 situation.

The Randall County Juvenile Probation department and the Youth Center of the High Plains places a high priority on the health and safety of our residents, staff, and the community. We continue to monitor the situation, relying on local, state and federal authorities for guidelines and directives; as well as the expertise of our medical personnel.

Please contact the RCJP/ YCHP at 806-468-5708 with any concerns or questions you may have regarding your child.

### **COVID- 19 Links:**

Governor Abbott's Executive Order

<file:///K:/COVID-19/Governor%20Order%20-%203-19-2020.pdf>

Governor Abbott's Proclamation

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-declares-state-of-disaster-in-texas-due-to-covid-19>

Randall County Commissioner's Declaration of Disaster

<https://www.randallcounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/1116/Randall-County-Extended-Local-Disaster-Order>

Department of State Health Services

<https://dshs.texas.gov/>

Center of Disease Control and Prevention – COVID – 19

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Amarillo Public Health COVID-19 Information

<https://www.amarillo.gov/departments/community-services/public-health/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>