

Subject	<b>IMPORTANT: COVID-19 Notifications</b>
From	Lou Serrano
To	Juvenile Probation Counties
Sent	Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:05 PM

Good afternoon,

With the ongoing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we have continued to work with the juvenile probation departments by sharing valuable information, addressing questions about standards, monitoring, and our agency response to the COVID-19. As always communication with our probation departments will be critical as we work together in keeping our staff, youth, and communities safe.

Many of you may already be aware that Harris County had a youth in their juvenile detention center test positive for COVID-19, and a report out of Bexar County of a juvenile probation officer testing positive. We have been in communication with both departments, who continue to work with local officials to address these developments.

Over the coming days, you may encounter the same situations and it will be imperative that we maintain appropriate levels of communication between our agency and the local juvenile probation departments. We fully understand that when these events happen, you will be very busy coordinating your local response. Upon confirming a youth or staff member is positive with COVID-19, we are asking that notification be provided to our agency in order to appropriately assist the department, and consider the possible risks to, and implications for, the larger juvenile justice system. Also, we would encourage you to be proactive in the event you are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, which may take days, and feel the agency should be notified to assist with coordination efforts prior to the department being provided test results. We all know that our youth move frequently, from community, to detention, to placement, and possibly commitment to TJJD. This notification will ensure that we can work with you to implement measures to protect others within our system. Upon notification we would ask that all movement of youth be restricted as much as possible, pending coordination efforts with our agency.

We are not asking for personal identifiable information about staff or youth; we only ask that the notification be made along with information you feel may be important to consider. Working together we can make decisions that are critical to all.

Please provide notifications by calling the Incident Reporting Center (IRC) at **1-877-786-7263**. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Please stay safe and let us know how we can help

*Louis Serrano*

Louis Serrano  
Deputy Executive Director for Probation Services