



News Release

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DSCYF Announces Positive Coronavirus Test Results

WILMINGTON – As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Delaware, the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) on Tuesday announced two positive coronavirus cases connected to the Department.

Along with other state agencies, DSCYF has been diligently preparing for the threat of coronavirus. To that end, the Department has communicated with staff members regularly on prevention and precaution measures, acquired personal protective equipment, enhanced screening of staff and youth, developed contingency plans and enacted cleaning protocol for the safety of our staff and youth in our care.

“Unfortunately, it is inevitable that the cases in Delaware will continue to rise, but we want the community to know that we are taking every available precaution to protect our staff and our vulnerable populations,” said **DSCYF Secretary Josette Manning**. “Our mission as a department is to promote the safety and well-being of children and families through prevention, intervention, treatment and rehabilitative services. Coronavirus has not stopped us from fulfilling our mission, though it has changed the way we go about it. We have followed the guidance of the medical experts at the Delaware Division of Public Health and have taken swift and appropriate action to mitigate risk to our staff and youth. In this rapidly evolving public health emergency, our staff and children’s well-being is our primary focus and we will adjust accordingly to protect them.”

The coronavirus cases associated with the Department are unrelated to one another. Details about each case are below:

- A youth residing at one of DSCYF’s contracted community-based programs has tested positive for the coronavirus. Once the youth presented with a fever and cough, the youth was immediately separated. Staff that interacted with the youth were using personal protective equipment and the facility was being continuously cleaned. The youth is now recuperating at home. The Department is reaching out to the families of children in this program and working with staff across our Department to identify any potential exposure risks for staff and youth.

- Additionally, a staff member working in an administrative building tested positive for coronavirus. The staff member is currently isolated at home. The area where the staff member was stationed was immediately closed off to others working within the building and was cleaned and disinfected according to guidance from the State of Delaware and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cleaning has been ongoing and continuous at the Department, even prior to this positive test. The Department has notified impacted staff members and is following up appropriately regarding exposure risks.

In order to protect personal health information, DSCYF is unable to disclose additional information about these cases. Staff at the affected buildings have been advised of the cases to enable them to monitor themselves for symptoms.

“I want to stress that the actions and communications taken at this moment are for the safety of our children and staff. We want the general public and families we serve to be informed of the safety precautions we are taking every day to slow the spread of coronavirus,” said Secretary Manning. “Despite these trying times, our dedicated staff continue to carry out our mission every day placing themselves at risk as they work diligently to achieve our vision: safe and healthy children, resilient families and strong communities.”

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