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| DYS Seal | **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** |
| ***Executive Office of Health and Human Services*** |
| **Department of Youth Services** |
| **HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY** **Cessation of routine intake quarantine with youths returning to residential programs after a visit to an Emergency Department, Medical Office or Dental Office**  |

This guidance is issued giving the current best practices for containment of COVD-19 issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). DYS reserves the right to rescind or modify this guidance at any time if it determines that the public health or the health and safety of youth and staff are at risk, or to comply with state and federal guidance.

After consultation with MDPH, as Emergency Departments, Medical and Dental Offices are following strict protocols to avoid infectious disease exposures, effective May 29, 2020 Department of Youth Services will no longer routinely quarantine youths returning from community medical visits.

Current public health control plans include segregation of potentially infectious and non-infectious patients, appropriate use of PPE, hygiene protocols, cleaning/disinfecting, and social distancing.

Risk of exposure during visits to the community includes transportation. Therefore, DYS protocols for transportation must be followed. This includes proper use of PPE, sanitizing of vehicle, air circulation via open windows when possible.

Certain circumstances may put a specific visit at higher risk. Examples include a prolonged visit (i.e. greater than 2-3 hours) to an Emergency Department; a visit to a crowded medical office where staff observed a lack of social distancing or improper use of PPE; a youth refusing to comply with facial covering/social distancing.

Therefore, Health Services staff should discuss the details of the visit with program staff accompanying the youth to determine if the visit is higher risk and thus, necessitates routine intake quarantine.