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|  | ***Commonwealth of Massachusetts*** |
| ***Executive Office of Health and Human Services*** |
| **Department of Youth Services** |
| **COVID-19 Protocol for New Intakes in DYS Residential Programs** |

This Protocol establishes the guidelines and procedures that all Department of Youth Services (DYS) state and provider staff must follow when testing and quarantining new intakes, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Recommendations for Quarantine in high-risk congregate settings found at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html; the CDC Guidance on Prevention and Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>; the Public Health Guidance and Directives, found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-public-health-guidance-and-directives; EOHHS’ COVID-19 Guidance for Residential and Congregate Care Programs found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-public-health-guidance-and-directives#eohhs-congregate-care-> ; the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Considerations for Caring for COVID-19 Recovered Residents found at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-public-health-guidance-and-directives; and the MDPH Public Health Advisory Regarding COVID-19 Testing found at https://www.mass.gov/advisory/public-health-advisory-regarding-covid-19-testing. DYS reserves the right to revoke or modify this Protocol at any time, if it determines the public health and/or safety of youth and staff are at risk, or to comply with state and federal guidance.

* Effective July 1, 2022, there are no general quarantine requirements for new intakes.
* New intakes should be screened for COVID-19 and tested with BinaxNOW test performed at admission by DYS Health Services. If admissions occur outside of the hours of on-site health service on-site availability, the intake youth must be quarantined until the health screening can occur.
* Based on the short-term stay of youth referred to Overnight Arrest, new admissions should be offered a self-administered OTC Covid-19 test. Staff should contact medical on-call for any questions related to the test.
* If a new intake youth tests **positive on BinaxNOW test**, they will immediately be placed in medical isolation and evaluated by Health Services.
* If a new intake tests **negative on BinaxNOW test,** is asymptomatic and is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case in the community, they will be placed in quarantine according to the DYS Protocol for Quarantining Close Contacts of COVID-19 Cases.
* If a new intake tests **negative on BinaxNOW test**, is asymptomatic and was not exposed to a COVID-19 case in the past 48 hours, they will participate in general programming.
* New intakes should be assessed at least once per day for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection, including fever.
* New intakes should not be placed in a room with an individual who is immunocompromised.
* Youths who had COVID-19 in the last 90 days (from day of symptom onset or day of first positive test if asymptomatic) do not need to be tested at the intake.

**Any youth who develops symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately placed in medical isolation and evaluated by DYS Health Services and considered a suspect COVID-19 case.**