



March 23, 2020

Dear Fulltime Attendance Program service provider:

**RE: COVID-19**

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is proactively responding to COVID-19 ensuring caregivers, youth, service providers, partners and our staff have the information they need. Throughout Youth Justice in BC, we continue to provide services while ensuring the important precautions are taken to allow for the health and wellbeing of children, youth, families and staff involved in providing vital services. Fulltime Attendance Programs (FTAP) are an essential component of the Youth Justice array of services. Your continued commitment to serving the needs of adjudicated youth in your program is greatly appreciated.

To that end, we ask that FTAPs continue to work collaboratively with youth justice staff (Youth Probation Officers, Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services, Contract Managers) and others to continue to assess:

- The priority of in-person and if needed telephone and/or video appointments in the community for those youth currently attending FTAPs;
- Maintaining connections with family and home community supports;
- Developing transition plans that ensure youth and community health and safety;
- The ongoing capacity of FTAP to meet needs of youth currently in the program.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, is providing daily updates on the COVID-19 virus and its impact in British Columbia. This letter is to provide specific information for you on information being used to take precautions to support your child while in our offices and centres as well as to support access to support you and your family currently.

Public health information is being updated regularly. Please find the latest information here:

- [BC Center for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Link Web site](#)
- [Health Canada Information](#)
- [Ministry of Children and Family Development Web site](#)

In line with the recent request from Dr. Henry, I encourage your program to take preventative measures.

You can stay healthy and prevent the spread of infections by:

- washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands;
- avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- coughing or sneezing into your sleeve and not your hands;
- staying home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others.

Should you suspect that you or any person in the program is ill as a result of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

If the FTAP identifies that a youth in the program may be ill or at risk of COVID-19 infection, FTAP Program will immediately inform the Manager, Provincial Youth Justice Programs.

Over the coming weeks, the Ministry will continue to provide updates and directions on the Ministry website.

Sincerely,



Teresa Dobmeier,  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Service Delivery Division



Dillon Halter  
Executive Director of Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice  
Provincial Director of Youth Justice



Einar Poulsen  
Manager, Provincial Youth Justice Programs