March 19, 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

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.

To that end, staff will continue to assess:

- The priority of in-person, and if needed telephone and/or video appointments in the community for those on community justice supervision to ensure all youth have continued support;
- Within our youth custody centres, we have taken steps to restrict the public in our buildings to sustain the health and wellbeing of youth and staff within youth custody services. We have also taken measures to change the format of visits via telephone and/or video to ensure vital connections with family and community stakeholders.

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 you 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 your home is ill as a result of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

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