



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Statement About COVID-19 Positive Youth in Juvenile Detention

On Saturday, May 9, the San Diego County Probation Department accepted two youth, including one who is known COVID-19 positive, back into temporary custody in a Probation juvenile detention facility. These youth came from a court-ordered out-of-state residential treatment program in Michigan that was no longer a viable placement option for youth under the jurisdiction of the San Diego County Probation Department.

Earlier this month, this residential treatment program in Michigan for high-need youth had one resident who tested positive for COVID-19. Upon learning of the diagnosis, probation departments throughout California, including San Diego County, pushed to have all youth in the facility tested. Additionally, the involved Probation Departments sent staff to the Michigan facility to check on the youth and ensure their safety. It was subsequently determined that returning the youth to San Diego County would be in their best interests.

The youth returning from this facility are in isolation and are receiving medical care. They will remain in medical isolation for a minimum of 14 days, until they have tested negative for the virus twice, and have been cleared by our medical clinic. Because of their treatment needs and requirements to complete a court-ordered treatment program, the best short-term solution was to return them to custody until an appropriate, safe residential treatment option can be found.

During the transportation and subsequent booking and housing of these youth, the required personal protective equipment was provided to and continues to be utilized by the youth and staff. The returning youth will continue to be isolated and evaluated by medical services several times a day. Additionally, arrangements have been made for the subsequent COVID-19 testing and isolation of Probation transportation staff.

The Probation Department is ensuring the necessary measures and practices remain in place to support the safety of the youth and staff in our facilities. Isolation and medical practices in accordance with public health guidelines have been implemented.

As of May 11, 2020, the Probation Department has 208 youth in juvenile detention facilities. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 is our top priority and we continue to monitor daily information and guidance from County health officials as it becomes available. Everyone is encouraged to visit the San Diego County Department of Public Health webpage [www.coronavirus-sd.com](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com) for more information on COVID-19.