



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DSCYF Announces Positive Coronavirus Test Result at Another Secure Facility

WILMINGTON –The Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) on Tuesday announced that a staff member working at Stevenson House Detention Center has tested positive for coronavirus.

The individual is self-isolating at home. Once notified of the positive test, the Department began the implementation of notification and cleaning protocols. Impacted staff were directly advised so that they can monitor themselves for symptoms. The area where the staff member was stationed was immediately closed off to others working within the building and the area was disinfected according to guidance from the State of Delaware and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Stevenson House is a Level V secure care facility. Families of all youth in the facility, regardless of their actual potential for exposure, have been contacted and all youth are being closely monitored for symptoms. To date, no other staff member nor student has reported any symptoms. In order to protect personal health information, DSCYF is unable to disclose additional information about this case.

DSCYF's response to coronavirus has been multi-pronged. Over the last several weeks, the Department has implemented multiple policy and procedural changes: limiting face-to-face contacts, providing facility and community-based staff with personal protective gear, increasing screening protocols for anyone entering a facility, bolstering cleaning protocols and establishing plans to separate symptomatic individuals to slow the spread of the virus, when needed.

“This is a very difficult and stressful time for our staff, youth and families, and I cannot stress enough how we appreciate their flexibility and patience. COVID-19 has changed our way of life here in Delaware and the safety and wellbeing of our staff and youth remains our primary concern. We have implemented procedural changes to protect staff and youth, and make our decisions by following the guidance of public health officials. We will continue those efforts to protect our staff and youth. Despite the fact that we are in a time of great uncertainty, I am grateful our staff continues to strive every day to help youth rehabilitate and move forward with their lives,” said **Josette Manning, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families.**