



To Judge Johnstone,
President of Children's Court
2 George Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150
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Email childrens.court@justice.nsw.gov.au

Dear Judge Johnstone,

I am writing to you to advice that Youth Justice (YJ) have adopted a number of changes in response to the emerging risk posed by the spread of COVID-19 in NSW. This includes:

- 1) A **quarantine process** across all YJ Centres for new admissions and those showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Based on Justice Health advice, these young people are isolated for 14 days and regularly tested to minimise the risk of infection in centres. Whilst they are in quarantine, young people:
 - a. do not have access to face to face leaning in Education
 - b. may not mix with young people in the main units
 - c. have limited opportunity to socialise with their peers (e.g. having meals in their rooms instead of sharing it in a common area)
 - d. are restricted from accessing centre facilities that may result in the virus being spread (e.g. swimming pool)
 - e. do not have access to face to face visits but have access to video visits
 - f. have less time out of their room compared to the mainstream units. Whilst YJ works towards providing a minimum of six hour out of room time for this group, this is dependent on the number of "batches" of young people in quarantine units (e.g. a young person admitted on Tuesday is in a different batch than one admitted on Wednesday) due to limited space and resources
 - g. movements across units are restricted except for extraordinary circumstances. This includes replacing young people's access to the AVL suite with phone calls for Court appearances
- 2) A dedicated Covid+ accommodation unit (Uralba Unit Hub) was established at Cobham Youth Justice Centre on Monday 6th September 2021. This is a State-Wide facility.
 - a. young people are subjected to 14 days lockdown/ self-isolation with 30 minutes out of room time in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon every day. This Unit has significant input from Justice Health and Population Health for infection control.

- b. Once these young people complete their 14 days, and are medically discharged by Justice Health, they return to normal routines. When another young person (s) test positive for Covid they are moved into this unit and the cycle starts again.

Forwarded for your information

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further clarification

Regards



Michael Vita
A/Director Custodial Services
NSW Youth Justice
Department Communities and Justice

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E: [Redacted]

8th September 2021