

April 14, 2020

Lara Todd

**VIA Email to: [Lara.Todd@djj.virginia.gov](mailto:Lara.Todd@djj.virginia.gov)**

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice  
600 East Main Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23218-1110

Dear Lara Todd:

Under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, §2.2-3704 et seq., I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that indicate, as reported to the Virginia Department of Health, **(1)** the number of youth in Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and **(2)** the number of youth in alternative placements who were placed in the alternative placement by the Department of Juvenile Justice and have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Alternative placement for the purpose of this request includes, but is not limited to; Community Placement Programs, Secure Group Homes, State Contracted Mental Health Facilities.

I am further requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that indicate, as collected for daily population data, **(3)** the total number of youth from Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Facility and **(4)** the total number of youth from alternative placements who were placed in the alternative placement by the Department of Juvenile Justice who were released following the declaration of the state of emergency in Virginia by Governor Ralph Northam on March 12, 2020. Please provide the data disaggregated into the four categories of data requested.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50.00. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 virus on incarcerated youth entrusted into the care of the Department of Juvenile Justice. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act requires a response to this request be made within five business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than this amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Valerie Slater, Esq.  
Executive Director  
(804) 709-8780