

News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Connecticut Department of Mental Health
and Addiction Services

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DMHAS Reports Patient Death Related to COVID-19

Hartford, CT – The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is saddened to report today that a patient who had been in one of DMHAS’ inpatient psychiatric facilities has died due to complications related to the coronavirus. The individual had been a patient at Connecticut Valley Hospital but had been transferred to an acute care hospital where they died yesterday after a brief hospitalization. This marks the first patient death that has involved an individual that had been an in-patient in a DMHAS-operated psychiatric hospital. Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon said, “Sadly, we are not immune to the devastation of coronavirus. The family and health care providers of this patient are in our thoughts and prayers as they deal with the devastating loss of their loved one. We will provide support to the family in any way possible”.

DMHAS operates over 760 mental health and substance use beds and employs approximately 3,300 staff throughout the state-operated service system. No other information can be released at this time due to patient privacy laws.

Data included in the table below shows the cumulative number of patients and staff in DMHAS facilities that have had laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the outbreak began. Data below the table shows the number of patients and staff that have recovered from the virus.

Cumulative Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in DMHAS Facilities

	Laboratory Confirmed Cases of COVID-19	
	In-Patients	All DMHAS Staff
Connecticut Valley Hospital	41	26
Whiting Forensic Hospital	10	17
Capitol Regional Mental Health Center	0	1
Connecticut Mental Health Center	0	4
River Valley Services	0	1
Southeast Mental Health Authority	0	1
Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System	0	4
Western Connecticut Mental Health Network	0	3
Total:	51	57

As outlined in the non-test based criteria disseminated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention [Guidance regarding Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings](#), patients at DMHAS are recovering from COVID-19.

To date, 9 patients at Connecticut Valley Hospital and 8 patients at Whiting Forensic Hospital have recovered from the virus. Additionally, 22 staff members have provided medical documentation showing they have recovered from COVID-19, allowing them to return safely to work.

DMHAS continues to take significant steps to protect clients and staff from COVID-19 throughout the DMHAS inpatient units. These include:

- Utilizing spaces in all state-operated facilities to be used for the isolation of patients with COVID-19;
- Distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) including n95 masks, surgical masks, gowns, gloves and hand sanitizer to all state-operated facilities;
- Using quarantine and isolation protocols for patients and staff that have been reviewed and approved by the Department of Public Health;
- Restricting visitors from DMHAS facilities;
- Conducting health screenings of all individuals who enter DMHAS facilities, including staff and clients;
- Directing staff who are symptomatic or have been in close contact with individuals suspected of or having COVID-19 to stay home and self-quarantine to prevent infecting clients and other staff;
- Briefly suspending admissions in DMHAS inpatient services where community providers have capacity to absorb patients;
- Temporarily reducing bed capacities in certain units across the system in order to maintain proper social distancing requirements;
- Re-allocating critical staff in order to expand our capacity to isolate COVID patients
- Continuing planning to accommodate COVID-19 surge; and,
- Continuing use of acute care general hospital settings to provide care for patients with serious medical conditions.

For more information, visit the DMHAS COVID-19 Response webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS-COVID-19>.

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