



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

NANCY NAVARRETTA MA, LPC, NCC
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: DMHAS Private Non-Profit Providers
From: Nancy Navarretta
Date: January 7, 2022
Subject: DMHAS COVID-19 Provider Update #25

As we continue to provide services to the behavioral health community while the pandemic affects our daily lives, I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our community partners. I have personally spoken with many of you about how front line staff are heroically meeting the needs of clients while striving to balance personal health and pandemic demands. I am sincerely appreciative of all of your efforts during these challenging times.

In order to assure clear communication I offer the following updates and information:

- DMHAS has PPE supplies that can be requested as needed. Please contact Luiza Barnat (Luiza.Barnat@ct.gov) to request supplies. Supplies can be picked up at the Connecticut Valley Hospital warehouse in Middletown.
- DMHAS has authorized SUD Residential programs (Levels of care: 3.7, 3.7RE, 3.5, 3.5PPW, 3.3, 3.1) the option to provide 5 hours per week of “independent study” when requested and approved by CSSD and DMHAS. All treatment planning and reviews, as well as documentation and licensure requirements are expected to be maintained. Independent study shall be defined as study; reading; or small groups which are not staff-facilitated, but follow a curriculum that is approved by the agency Clinical Director. Please document independent study in clients’ charts as an exception due to COVID-19. This guidance is effective 12/07/21 and will continue until further notice.
- DMHAS has received a limited number of testing kits and the agency is expecting additional kits in the near future. Details on distribution are in process and information will be forthcoming.
- Please keep DMHAS contacts informed of substantial disruptions in business operations, significant program modifications or requests to close admissions or availability of resources using established communication channels. This assists in statewide resource planning and allocation and minimizes impact on contract deliverables.

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- DMHAS has re-opened the isolation site that was launched last January, and it is available to DMHAS-operated/funded programs and Residential Care Homes when on-site or community-based isolation is not feasible. The site is managed by the New London Homeless Hospitality Center in partnership with the Alliance for Living. It has 24-hour staffing, part-time nursing coverage and recovery navigators to help support isolation compliance. Providers can make a referral to the Norwich Isolation site by calling (959) 951-2109. **Please note that there is currently a hold on admissions until Monday, January 10.** There may be additional periodic holds on admissions going forward as they work to manage a high volume of referrals/admissions.
- ARPA COLA dollars have been released for the time period covering July to December 2021 for those providers who have completed the attestation process. Contract amendments related to additional amounts are in process. ARPA capital improvement grants recipients will receive notification of award over the next ten days.

While things are changing rapidly, we appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility. As always, DMHAS is here to provide support, assist with planning, and offer flexible options to continue the work while we navigate this challenging time. Please continue to watch for information and updates, which we will provide as needed. In the meantime, do not hesitate to reach out to the senior management team, regional managers, your DMHAS fiscal contacts, or myself with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued partnership.