



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

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: DMHAS Staff

From: Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.

Date: June 19, 2020

Subject: DMHAS COVID-19 Staff Update #21 Mandatory Testing of Certain DMHAS Employees

DMHAS has been notified that our Agency has been identified through the Department of Public Health Guidance as meeting the requirements for mandatory testing of COVID19. A portion of our workforce provides services involving direct contact with populations in at least one of the following settings: State Congregate Living Facilities, Nursing Home Level of Care Facilities and/or Hospitals. Governor Lamont has issued an Executive Order directing these facilities to conduct mandatory testing of their employees. This Executive Order is 7UU and went into effect June 14, 2020.

DMHAS has compiled a list of who should be tested based on the latest guidance from the CDC, the DPH Guidance, and the evolving scientific data about transmission. Our list is focused on those DMHAS employees working in inpatient and residential settings. Employees working in DMHAS inpatient and residential settings will be required to be tested including non-direct care staff such as maintenance workers. There are no exceptions for those individuals that have been identified as meeting criteria for mandatory testing. Each facility will notify those workers that are required to be tested. While it is our hope that all required staff will be tested, those staff who fail to comply will be placed in an unpaid leave status. If a staff person tests positive, they will be placed in a 14-day paid leave status.

Precise details are evolving and some questions remain to be clarified. For example, a number of staff at Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH), Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH), and River Valley Services (RVS) were tested in the past few weeks. DMHAS is seeking clarification regarding whether they must be tested again. We are also seeking additional information regarding whether follow-up testing of these same staff will occur. As information becomes clearer, I will be sending out additional communications and each facility's human resources department will be available to answer questions.

Testing will resume at WFH on Monday so I felt it was important for me to alert staff today. The full schedule is in the process of being finalized and will be made available once it is completed. Our highest priority will be to test in those DMHAS facilities that have inpatient

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units. I want to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter which will help us to continue to keep our patients and staff safe. I also want to thank you for all you have done on behalf of our clients during these extraordinarily challenging times.