



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: July 9, 2020
Subject: DMHAS COVID-19 Staff Update #24

I am writing to update staff about several important issues that may have an impact on our staff. The issues deal with Mandatory Testing, Self Quarantine, and the DMHAS re-open plan. These are all things that I have communicated about previously but I wanted to provide some updates related these items. I also wanted to simply thank you once again for all you have done to help ensure the safety of our patients and staff. I am pleased to report that we have not had any additional positive diagnoses of COVID 19 among our clients in inpatient facilities in almost 6 weeks. Similarly, we have only had several instances of staff testing positive for COVID over the past three weeks.

Mandatory Testing

Several communications have been distributed to inform staff about mandatory testing of certain employees. Staff will be receiving letters in the next few days informing them that they are required to be tested. Additionally, per OLR guidance if an individual is identified for mandatory testing and does not comply they will be placed on unpaid leave. As a strategy for continuing to keep our infection rates down I ask for your support on this important initiative.

Self Quarantine Following Travel to States with High Infection Rates

Last week I informed staff about the Executive Order that Governor Lamont issued regarding self quarantining after travel from states that are experiencing high infection rates. I indicated that the list of states was posted and included 16 states. The list has been updated again and now includes 3 additional states. The list can be accessed at the following link:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Travel-In-or-Out-of-CT> .

As I indicated in my last staff memo, any staff that travel from one of the states determined to have high infection rates must self-quarantine for 14 days. If staff have questions about this issue, please contact your facility Human Resources Director.

DMHAS Re-Open Plan

DMHAS continues to plan for the re-opening of office-based services and the return of administrative staff who have been working from home. The planning involves staff at all levels and is happening on the facility level as well as through DMHAS senior leadership.

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DMHAS, like other state agencies was required to submit our plan to OPM for review and approval. We have been notified that our plan was approved on July 6th. The plan has been posted and is available at the following link:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/COVID-19/Updates/REOPEN-DMHAS---Agency-Plan--FINAL-6-26-2020.pdf>

It is my hope that by making the plan available, staff will feel more comfortable about our gradual re-opening and the precautions that are being taken to protect patients and staff. As our planning is updated, I will provide additional information about our re-opening process. I want to thank you one more time for all you have done for clients that we serve across the DMHAS system of care.