

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2020

Contact: Art Mongillo
Arthur.Mongillo@ct.gov
(860) 335-7623 (C)

Staff at DMHAS Middletown Campus Test Positive for COVID-19

Middletown, CT – The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) announced today that a cluster of staff at the Middletown campus have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past week. Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH), Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH), and River Valley Services (RVS) are DMHAS facilities located on the Middletown campus where the affected staff are employed.

“We are committed to maintaining healthy and safe facilities, and have taken significant steps to protect clients and staff. My thoughts are with all who have been affected and I wish them a quick and full recovery” said DMHAS Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon. “We will continue to work with the Department of Public Health to ensure compliance with best practices, prevent illness, and avoid exposure to the virus.”

The individuals who tested positive include six (6) staff at CVH, two (2) at WFH, and one (1) at RVS. One (1) new patient at CVH has tested positive as well. The uptick in positive cases reflects similar increases in the state.

Cumulative Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases at DMHAS Facilities Cumulative from March 1, 2020 to Present

Laboratory Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

	Inpatients	All DMHAS Staff
Connecticut Valley Hospital	64	58
Whiting Forensic Hospital	10	25
Capitol Regional Mental Health Center	0	5
Connecticut Mental Health Center	0	11
River Valley Services	0	5
Southeast Mental Health Authority	0	2
Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System	3	14
Western Connecticut Mental Health Network	0	6
Total:	77	126

DMHAS operates over 760 mental health and substance use beds and employs approximately 3,300 staff throughout the state-operated service system. The Department has taken significant steps throughout its system to protect clients and staff from COVID-19. These include:

- Implementing contact tracing and testing, and quarantining patients and staff on impacted units until fourteen (14) days have elapsed without a positive test;
- Adjusting outpatient services while promoting social distancing, including introducing telehealth and modifying the delivery of clinical services and recovery supports;
- Conducting outdoor patient visits with family and friends with proper social distancing, personal protective equipment, and good hand hygiene;
- Implementing health screenings of staff and clients who enter DMHAS facilities;
- Aligning protocols with recommendations from the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and,

- 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.

Pursuant to Connecticut state law Chapters 368 and 899 pertaining to patients in psychiatric facilities, and other state and federal privacy laws, no additional information about the patient is available.

###