



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 Private Non-Profit Providers
From: Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
Date: March 19, 2020
Subject: DMHAS COVID-19 Provider Update #3

The Department has updated its screening tool for people entering DMHAS facilities, including staff and clients. There are no longer separate screening tools for staff, patients and visitors. The [new screening tool](#) is being used for ALL INDIVIDUALS entering DMHAS buildings. Additionally, it is not necessary to fill out the form for every person entering the facility; people may be screened by simply asking the questions on the form, taking the temperature and following the guidance at the bottom of the screen. Please feel free to adapt the new screening tool for your agencies use. The new screening tool is available online on the DMHAS COVID-19 webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS-COVID-19>.

For substance use residential care providers (Level of care 3.7, 3.7RE and 3.5) with programs who, due to temporary staffing shortages and the need to accommodate smaller groups, need to utilize the option of up to 5 hours per week of “independent study”, may request this accommodation. Once submitted, the request will be approved by CSSD and DMHAS. Requests should be emailed to the attention of both Michael Aiello at michael.aiello@jud.ct.gov and Nancy Navarretta at nancy.navarretta@ct.gov in one email. All treatment planning and review 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 curricula which 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 3/20/20 and will continue until further notice.

The Department of Social Services has provided new guidance related to expanded telemedicine and telephone coverage. Information on this can be found at https://www.ctdssmap.com/CTPortal/Information/Get%20Download%20File/tabid/44/Default.aspx?Filename=PB20_14.pdf&URI=Bulletins/PB20_14.pdf.

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<https://portal.ct.gov/dmhas>
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We understand that family and loved ones are the first priority. If child care has been affected by school closures and other disruptions related to the COVID-19 outbreak, please call (860) 756-0864 to be directly connected to 2-1-1 Child Care to find child care available in their area.

The public/private partnership we have created is showing how as a team we will be able to continue to provide services to the people in the behavioral health community. Thank you again for all you are doing.