

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### MEMORANDUM

To: Local Health Directors

From: Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH, Commissioner 

Date: March 27, 2020

Re: Release of Patient Information COVID-19

Local Health Directors are permitted to disclose the protected health information (PHI) of an individual who has been infected with, or exposed to, COVID-19, with law enforcement, paramedics, other first responders, and public health authorities without the individual's HIPAA authorization.

Information on addresses only of COVID-19 positive cases may also be released to the Public Safety Answering Points, (PSAPS) and/or Coordinated Medical Emergency Dispatch, (CMED) to aid in the triaging of patients and arranging transport for ill individuals. The CDC Guidance on this topic, Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the United States and may be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

Identifiable health information may be shared by local health directors to EMS if necessary, to prevent or control the spread of a reportable disease.

Efforts to protect the identity of individuals and prevent stigmatization of patients remains a priority. Release of information to the public about confidential patient data is not appropriate. Information on total number of positive cases without patient level specifics may also be permitted.



Phone: (860) 509-8282 • Fax: (860) 509-7160  
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1  
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308, MS#13PHP  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

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